Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 the lowest and 5 the highest, rate the clarity with which the USCIS outreach team explained the various provisions of the CW rule:

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Potential Weapons

Model airplanes are suddenly on the public's radar as potential terrorist weapons.

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Basting Basics

Here's how to know the difference between "marinade" and "marinate."

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING... Page 19

Out Shopping

Attention Target shoppers: You could have been standing in line with Michelle Obama.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

CITING ITS UNCONSTITUTIONALITY

Fitial to veto local casino bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Froilan says governor should sign it and let the court decide if it's challenged

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said yesterday he will veto a local bill seeking to legalize casino gambling on Saipan because the measure is "unconstitutional," but casino proponent Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said the governor should just sign the bill "and let somebody challenge it in court."

Tenorio, in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, said the court should be made to decide whether a bill is constitutional, and not the Legislature or the Executive Branch.

Tenorio cited the fiscal year 2012, which he earlier described as "unconstitutional." Despite its "problematic" provisions, he said he didn't challenge it.

In the same breadth, Tenorio said even if the governor thinks the local bill is unconstitutional, he should just sign it and let it be decided by the court if somebody challenges it.

The Senate, which wants Saipan voters to decide on the issue, had threatened to challenge the constitutionality of the local bill in court.

Like Fitial, the Senate believes that legalizing casino gaming through a local law is unconstitutional. Senators said it

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ENERGY AWARENESS MONTH

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, seated center, is flanked by Public Works Secretary Martin Sablan, seated right, and Energy director Thelma Inos, seated left, and other Division of Energy employees after the governor signed three energy-related proclamations on Capital Hill yesterday morning. Fitial declared October "CNMI Energy Awareness Month," Oct. 1 "Energy Star: Change a Light Day," and Oct. 30 "Weatherization Day."

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Fitial, Kilili want extension of transitional worker program

» Without extension, CNMI will have 'zero' foreign workers in 2015

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) will be pushing for an extension of the transitional worker program beyond Dec. 31, 2014, saying the CNMI economy will still need foreign workers who may not necessarily be qualified to convert to an H1B status, for example, throughout the transition period.

The federalization law brings down to "zero" the number of transitional workers by the end of 2014 from a cap of 22,416 in fiscal year 2012.

Fitial said he will "of course" request the U.S. Labor Secretary to extend the transitional worker program.

Sablan, in a separate interview, said he will support Fitial's request so long as the CNMI sees reasonable reliance on nonresident workers whose jobs won't still be filled by the local labor pool.

"We will get the extension… There's a good reason to request for an extension past 2014. The extension should not be more than five years," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

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FACT SHEET

CNMI immigration: Myth or fact

There are many rumors circulating in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands about immigration benefits. USCIS provides some facts in response to some myths about the federal immigration transition in the CNMI.

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Neo Gold Wings misses deadline; will be here next week. PAGE 2
Lawyer asks federal court to allow removal of Fund's suit. PAGE 3

Local

Neo Gold Wings misses deadline; will be here next week

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Neo Gold Wings Paradise missed yesterday's deadline to pay its land lease arrears totaling over $211,000 by Sept. 30 but the Department of Public Lands said that company chairman and chief executive officer Joseph Hyun will be here next week.

Neo Gold Wings has long planned to build a casino resort on Tinian for $1.6 billion to $3 billion.

DPL Secretary Oscar M. Babauta said yesterday that the Neo Gold Wings official informed him that his flight to Saipan will be delayed to Tuesday or Wednesday.

Hyun didn't indicate whether Neo Gold Wings will pay the land lease arrears when he visits in a new few days.

"They asked for a few days. After that, we'll see. I'm giving him the benefit of the doubt," Babauta told *Saipan Tribune.*

Babauta said if Neo Gold Wings does not pay its arrears, Neo Gold Wings and DPL cannot proceed with negotiations to reinstate a land lease to build its casino on Tinian.

As of this time, DPL hopes that Neo Gold Wings will at least pay its debts to the CNMI.

Neo Gold Wings' groundbreaking on Tinian was held in July 2009, but monthly land rental payments have since not been paid. This led to DPL terminating Neo Gold Wings' lease on 300 hectares of public land in August 2010 for non-payment of monthly rental since the latter part of 2009.

In April this year, Neo Gold Wings said it will pursue its project and asked DPL for another chance. DPL said it can only renegotiate if Neo Gold Wings pays its land lease arrears plus make a one-year advance payment.

Mendiola begins new role as LB director on Monday

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) formally appointed Melchor Mendiola yesterday as the new Legislative Bureau director, and officially removed Glenna SP. Reyes, whose contract also expired yesterday.

Cabrera and Manglona signed a joint letter yesterday addressed to Mendiola and Reyes, whose removal was pursuant to the provisions of the NMI Constitution.

The letter came a day after a majority of members of the Senate and House leaderships voted to remove Reyes and replace her with Mendiola.

In a separate statement yesterday, the Legislature said "with a start to building a positive relationship, both [the] leadership of the Senate and House of Representatives has appointed Melchor J. Mendiola to be the next Legislative Bureau director."

It said Mendiola will carry on the duties and responsibilities of the former director, "including the management of 24 authorized staff positions and the helm of an annual budget of approximately $1.4 million."

"Melchor begins his role as director on Oct. 3, 2011," the statement reads.

Cabrera said: "Melchor brings with him 18 years of professional legislative experience, the regard of colleagues from the LB and officials who know him to be an honorable and capable man, and a cunning sense of humor."

The speaker also expressed his "sincere gratitude to Glenna Reyes for her services and efforts to ensure that work productivity of the Senate and House of Representatives are met."

"Thank you for your service and I wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors," he added.

Prior to his appointment, Mendiola served as a senior legislative assistant for three years, and 14 years as a legislative assistant with the bureau, as well as the offices of former senators and representatives.

His community involvement includes being a member of the PTSA and the Marianas Public Land Trust.

"I am delighted that Melchor accepted the role as director. He has contributed very significantly to the needed professional services of the Senate and House. He is always bringing enthusiasm and creativity to his work. I wish him every success in his new role," Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said in a statement.

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NMI board OK'd to issue license to foreign medical professionals

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed into law a measure that approves the licensing of foreign trained medical professionals in the Commonwealth.

House Bill 17-71 was passed by the Legislature in August; it is now Public Law 17-56.

The new law added subchapter 140-50.3 which applies to the licensing of foreign and international medical graduates without U.S. training or a U.S. license.

According to the Legislature, the CNMI needs to address its health care system and provide short- and long-term solutions in order to have a healthy population where common diseases like diabetes and hypertension are eliminated and the life span of every citizen is prolonged.

The law states that the Commonwealth Medical Practice Act provides that "when there is a physician shortage, applicants who are not citizens or nationals of the United States or permanent residents of the Commonwealth may qualify pursuant to the discretion of the Medical Professional Licensing board."

Although the Commonwealth has consistently experienced a physician shortage, the licensing board has not adopted any regulations for the licensing of medical professionals who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents. The licensing board was established in 1982.

"Since the medical professional licensing board has not adopted licensing regulations necessary to the health and welfare of the residents of the Commonwealth…it is appropriate for the Legislature to adopt appropriate regulations for the licensing of foreign medical professionals," states the law.

Joaquin I. Deleon Guerrero
P.O. Box 5743 CHRB
Tinian MP 96952
Telephone No. 256-0748

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF JOAQUIN I. DELEON GUERRERO AS GUARDIAN OF THE ESTATE OF JOAQUIN BORJA DELEON GUERRERO Minor Child **By** **JOAQUIN I. DELEON GUERRERO** Petitioner	**FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0477** **NOTICE OF HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian for the estate of the above-named minor child by Joaquin I. Deleon Guerrero, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Superior Court before the Honorable Kenneth L. Govendo on the **13th day of October , 2011 at 9:00am** or as soon as thereafter.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Lawyer asks federal court to allow removal of Fund's suit

Bruce Jorgensen, counsel for Commonwealth Retirement Association board member Sapuro Rayphand, has asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to allow the removal of the NMI Retirement Fund's lawsuit against the CNMI government from the Superior Court to the district court.

In Rayphand's opposition to the Fund's motion to remand the lawsuit to the Superior Court, Jorgensen said that CRA's standing as a post-judgment intervenor has been recognized by the parties in the lawsuit.

Jorgensen said that Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo granted CRA's intervention.

"More than 19 months have lapsed since intervention transpired—during which CRA members and non-members, including Fund retiree beneficiaries, and the general public, have witnessed the Fund's rapidly escalating demise," the lawyer said.

On the Fund's motion to sanction Jorgensen, Jorgensen said that Fund counsel Braddock Huesman's assertion is a "frivolous sanction request that does not merit monetary award."

Jorgensen said the documents he submitted in court in a separate lawsuit filed by unnamed retirees against the CNMI government and the Fund, "have chronicled with specificity the lavish fees bestowed at expense of the Fund's rapidly dwindling money, upon Huesman and other Fund privately-retained though politically-favored counsel—hundreds of thousands over a year, has produced little more than just accumulation in the hands of Fund counsel."

"Removal in lieu of remand promotes judicial economy while averting conflicts of law as between this federal court and the CNMI Judiciary respecting not merely present claims, but those visibly on the horizon of federal question derivation," Jorgensen said.

Rayphand has notified the District Court that he wants the Fund's lawsuit against the CNMI government to be removed from the Superior Court and transferred to the federal court.

Rayphand stated that it has been more than two years now since Govendo rendered a $230-million judgment in the case yet there has been little, if any, meaningful steps toward enforcement of that judgment.

Huesman, in a motion to remand, argued that Rayphand's notice of removal is defective as CRA is not a defendant in the matter and thus cannot remove the case.

Even if CRA is considered a defendant for removal purposes, Huesman said that not all defendants have agreed to removal.

Huesman asked the U.S. District Court to hold Rayphand and Jorgensen liable to pay the Fund's attorneys' fees in answering to their court action "that was completely devoid of merit."

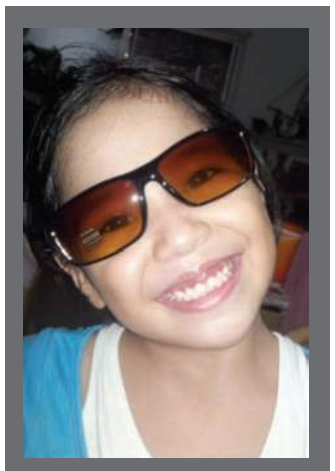
Last week, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos agreed with the Fund that the Fund's lawsuit should be remanded to the Superior Court.

Fitial and Inos, in his capacity as then Finance secretary, through assistant attorney general Michael A. Stanker, filed in District Court a joinder in the Fund's motion to remand.

Stanker did not present any argument on behalf of Fitial and Inos in the joinder. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, seated center, shares a light moment with stakeholders while preparing for a group photo after he signed yesterday morning a proclamation declaring October 2011 National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Office of Vocational Rehabilitation director Margarita R. Olopai-Taitano thanked employers for opening their doors to people with disabilities to whom she also said: "Be strong, take courage, and never doubt what you can do."



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Belated happy birthday greetings go out to TJ Sablan Torres, who celebrated her 7th birthday yesterday, Sept. 30, 2011! With love, Mom, Dad, EJ, Nana, Papa, Uncle John, Auntie Annette, Delsh, Ron, and Kirida!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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FACT

From Page 1

MYTH – False	FACT - True
Aliens in the CNMI will get green cards.	Aliens in the CNMI will NOT get green cards unless otherwise eligible under U.S. immigration law.
Aliens in the CNMI will get U.S. citizenship.	CNMI non-residents will NOT get U.S. citizenship unless otherwise eligible under U.S. nationality law.
CNMI transitional worker (CW) status is automatic.	CW status is NOT automatic; your employer must petition for you.
CW status allows me to travel to the rest of the United States.	CW status does NOT allow you to travel to other parts of the United States; it is only good in the CNMI.
CW status allows me to travel to Guam.	CW status does NOT allow you to travel to Guam.
CW status allows me to transit Guam.	CW status only allows workers from the Philippines to transit Guam.
Employers must hire a U.S. citizen.	An employer must consider all available U.S. workers for a position, including a position currently filled by a foreign worker with an umbrella permit, before filing a petition with USCIS to hire a foreign worker. "U.S. workers" include U.S. citizens, U.S. permanent residents and Freely Associated States (FAS) including FSM, Marshall Islands, Palau) nationals. If the employer files a CW petition to hire a foreign worker, the employer must attest under penalty of law that no qualified U.S. worker is available to fill the position. The CW rule does not require that the employer hire a U.S. worker who applies for a position for which he or she is not qualified. An employer is not required by U.S. immigration law to hire a qualified U.S. worker applicant, but if they do not, they will not be approved to fill the position with a CW worker.
I must repay my employer for the application fees associated with my CW worker application.	There are three USCIS fees associated with CW status – the application fee of $325, a CNMI Education Funding Fee of $150 per beneficiary (worker) and an $85 biometrics fee per worker who is present in the CNMI. The employer is required to pay the first two fees and cannot seek reimbursement from the worker. However, the biometrics fee may be paid by the worker, employer or a third party.
I am out of status, but I can pay someone to get status for me so that I will be legally in the CNMI and able to work.	An employer can only file a CW or other nonimmigrant petition for you if you are lawfully present in the CNMI or are outside of the CNMI. An employer can only petition for you if he/she intends to employ you in an actual qualifying job. The employer must pay the petition application fees.
Someone guaranteed that they can get me a green card or visa.	NO ONE can guarantee you a green card or visa no matter how much you pay them.
I must leave the CNMI to get CW status.	If you have a valid umbrella permit or parole status you DO NOT need to leave the CNMI in order to get CW status, as long as the employer's petition is filed while you are lawfully present, and your parole status remains current.
Since I am a CNMI permanent resident, I will be deported.	CNMI permanent residents and their immediate family members are eligible for parole. You should apply immediately at the USCIS office in Saipan if you do not currently have parole. You can find instructions at www.uscis.gov/cnmi or on the handout available at the USCIS office.
Since I am a CNMI permanent resident, I do not need to worry about my immigration status after Nov. 27, 2011.	Everyone, including a CNMI permanent resident must be lawfully present. CNMI permanent residence does not itself provide any lawful presence in the CNMI after Nov. 27, 2011. You can maintain status by: § Obtaining a grant or extension of parole; § Being the beneficiary of a CW petition filed by an employer; or § Obtaining another federal immigration status.
The immediate relatives of FAS citizens will be deported.	Immediate family members of FAS citizens are eligible for parole. You should apply immediately at the USCIS office in Saipan if you do not currently have parole. You can find instructions at www.uscis.gov/cnmi or on the handout available at the USCIS office.
I am an 18 year old U.S. citizen and if I join the military I can petition for my parents to get their green cards.	All U.S. citizen children must be 21 years old to petition for their parents whether they are in the military or not.
I must pay for blank USCIS forms.	All immigration forms are free and are available at www.uscis.gov/forms, at your local USCIS office or by calling 1-800-375-5283. I can get immigration information anywhere on the internet. All official immigration information comes from www.uscis.gov and other government websites. Official federal government sites such as that of USCIS include ".gov," NOT ".com. "

Who Can Help You

You can represent yourself before USCIS. Many people, including family members, may be willing to help you fill out USCIS forms with the information you provide. These people may do this for free or charge a small fee. However, **only** certain qualified individuals can give you legal advice or represent you before USCIS. Legal advice may include:

- How to answer questions on your immigration forms; and
- What immigration options you have.

By law, the only people who may give you this legal advice or represent you before USCIS are:

- Attorneys;
- Non-attorney representative who are accredited by the Board of Immigration Appeals; or
- Law students and law student graduates of accredited U.S. law schools with direct supervision of an attorney, accredited representative or faculty member in some cases.

To confirm that an attorney or BIA-accredited representative is eligible to represent you before USCIS, visit www.uscis.gov/avoidscams.

Beware of immigration scams

Sometimes people pretend to be "immigration experts" to deceive you and take your money. This is against the law. Scammers often make promises that sound too good to be true. They may tell you that they have a special relationship with the government, or can get you an immigration benefit, like a work permit or green card quickly, or that they can help you get a benefit for which you are not eligible. Do not be fooled by these scammers.

Sometimes websites that look very professional can lead you to a scam. Remember that the USCIS site contains ".gov." Scammers also advertise in phone books, fliers and on signs in stores. They may take advantage of radio stations and newspapers to advertise through the media. They may also be recommended by someone you know. Be careful. Before going to someone selling immigration advice, find out first if he or she is an attorney or BIA- accredited representative. Even a well-meaning friend, neighbor or family member can give you advice that will hurt you.

Learn the facts about how to protect you and your family at www.usicis.gov/avoidscams.

To report immigration fraud, call U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement at 1-670-233-0600 or 1-877-347-2423. For more information about federal immigration law and the transition in the CNMI, please visit our website at www.uscis.gov/cnmi or call us at 1-800-375-5283. ***(USCIS)***

FITIAL

From Page 1

should be a Commonwealth law.

House Local Bill 17-44, introduced by Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), passed the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation on Aug. 26 by a vote of 11-5 with one voting "present" and four absences.

When the governor was asked whether he will allow the 40-day period to lapse next week and let the local bill become law without his signature, he said he will "veto" the bill.

"Because it's unconstitutional," he said in an interview after signing four proclamations at the governor's conference room on Capital Hill yesterday morning.

Fitial is a delegate to the First Northern Marianas Constitutional Convention.

Citing the CNMI Constitution, Fitial said "gambling is prohibited except as provided by CNMI law."

"A local law is not a CNMI law because that local law is only applicable on Saipan. It's not applicable [on] Tinian and Rota, so there's your definition of CNMI law," he said.

Fitial also said if there are investors really interested in investing in casinos on Saipan, "tell them to see me."

Tenorio, for his part, said he knows of at least three groups of investors willing to invest $10 million each as soon as the local bill becomes law.

"If the governor vetoes this local casino bill, then that's it for the casino proposal. Saipan will never have a casino, and regardless of the survey that the Senate is working on. I guess my message to the retirees: You won't have a retirement program two or three years from now because only casinos will save the Retirement Fund and the economy," he added.

But Fitial said he can only entertain a casino measure that passes both the House and Senate; meaning a casino measure has to be either a House bill or a Senate bill, and not a local bill.

At this point, Fitial said he asks the Legislature "to entertain a CNMI [bill]."

But he said his approval of a passed House or Senate casino bill will still depend on the bill itself.

"I will consider it," was all he could say.

The House passed Tenorio's House casino bill last year but the Senate killed it

Senators said that Saipan voters should be made to decide whether they want casino gaming on their island or not.

As the House has yet to act on a Senate bill calling for a special election to ask Saipan voters whether they support casino gaming, the Senate tapped Northern Marianas College students under the Current Issues class of Sam McPhetres to survey Saipan voters on their views about casino gaming.

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), in a separate interview yesterday, said his students will move ahead with a Nov. 4 survey.

However, there will be two opportunities for early voting—one on Nov. 2 from 8am to 12 noon at the Man'amko Center and on Nov. 3 also from 8am to 12pm at NMC Room D1.

Senators said NMC students plan to issue more information about the survey soon.

Torres said the Office of the Public Auditor agreed to become "observers" during the survey to give more credibility to the survey.

"The survey will give an indication of how the people of Saipan feel about establishing casinos on Saipan. The survey result would be used by lawmakers in making policy and laws on the issue," he said.

Some House members have expressed reservation about the Senate and NMC's plan.

As for Fitial's statement that he will veto the local casino bill, Sen. Ralph Torres said the Senate is glad that the administration and the Senate are on the same page about the unconstitutionality of the local bill. He said even foreign investors will not have the confidence to operate casinos on Saipan if they know that a local law allowing such industry on Saipan will be challenged in court because of constitutional issues.

Fitial said he cannot tell the Senate what to do on the casino issue but to just "do the right thing."

"That encouragement is probably needed but I think that people…are suffering enough. They understand the economic crisis that they are all in," the governor added.

Saipan voters had twice rejected casino gaming on Saipan; the last one was during the 2007 elections.

EXTENSION

From Page 1

He said he has discussed this with the U.S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of the Interior, as well as gotten the support of a U.S. Senate member.

"But the governor needs to ask for it. I will support his request for extension," Sablan added.

Under U.S. Public Law 110-229, only the U.S. Labor Secretary has the authority to extend the transitional worker program, if it is determined that current and anticipated labor needs justify such an extension to ensure adequate employment in the CNMI.

Fitial and Sablan said there will still not be enough workers from the U.S. workers pool to fill all the jobs currently held by foreign workers.

Unless the program is extended, transitional workers or those who will be granted a Commonwealth-only worker (CW) status must adjust or change status under the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act if they want to remain legally in the CNMI or they will become subject to removal.

However, employers and employees have been saying that if the workers are only eligible for a CW status now, there is slim possibility that they could change their circumstances to become eligible for an INA status or visa like an H1B visa by the end of 2014.

"I did everybody a favor because the intent of Public Law 110-229 is to wipe out every single nonresident worker from the Commonwealth. I did not like that. That's why I submitted my own issues to USCIS, Homeland Security, to make sure that my economy does not get wiped out. I need workers," Fitial said in an interview after signing four proclamations on Capital Hill yesterday morning.

The governor said he "will never recommend something that is not right and to zero out my nonresident workforce, that is not right."

With both the governor and the delegate on the same page on the issue, there could be a better chance to extend the transition period.

The release of the final regulation governing foreign workers in the CNMI on Sept. 7 has people adjusting to the realities of a transitional worker program.

The rule creates a CW status that will allow foreign workers to remain in the CNMI until the end of the transition period on Dec. 31, 2014.

Of particular importance is the requirement that a foreign worker should already have a CW permit—or their application should already be in process—by Nov. 27, 2011, or they will face deportation.

That gives employers barely weeks to apply for CW permits for all their foreign employees.

DHS' U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officials led by district director David Gulick hosted at least 43 outreach sessions on the CW rule, with close to 4,000 participants.

MVA joins JATA Tourism Forum and Travel Showcase

CULTURAL CLUB
Members of Kagman High School's Refalewasch Cultural Club have their picture taken after performing for visitors from the Komoba Toho High School, an all-boys school in Tokyo Japan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Marianas Visitors Authority makes an appearance this week at Japan's largest travel show, the 2011 JATA (Japan Association of Travel Agents) Tourism Forum and Travel Showcase.

The event, expected to attract over a hundred thousand travel trade reps, media reps, and potential travelers will be held until Sunday, Oct. 2, at the Tokyo Big Sight East Hall. JATA is a national organization of travel agents and suppliers promoting the travel and tourism industry.

"The JATA Travel Showcase is the Northern Marianas' biggest and best opportunity to meet with Japanese travel reps who can help sell our destination, media reps who can help publicize our islands, and potential travelers deciding on their next destination," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman.

The MVA will also conduct its Marianas Workshop today to update travel agents directly and in detail about the Northern Marianas destination. The Marianas Workshop is expected to attract over 110 travel agents plus media and will be held at the Tokyo Bay Ariake Washington Hotel.

The MVA is also gearing up for two trade shows and a travel fair on Guam in October targeting military personnel and their families. The Navy Travel Show will be held on Oct. 13, followed by the 7th Annual Anderson Travel Fair on Oct. 14. A Micronesian Travel Fair starts Oct. 15 and runs through Oct. 17 in Tamuning, Guam. ***(MVA)***

US govt seeks dismissal of case vs mail fraud suspect

Assistant U.S. Attorney James Benedetto filed Wednesday a motion to dismiss without prejudice the criminal case against Maria Nina Dolot Castro.

Dismissal without prejudice refers to dismissal that leaves the plaintiff or prosecution free to try the case again later if circumstances change.

Castro was arrested on charges of mail fraud by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents last month.

In his motion, Benedetto stated that the federal government has determined that there are additional victims that need to be identified before the case is prosecuted and an additional investigation is to be conducted.

Additionally, Benedetto has been informed that Castro will be charged in the Superior Court with associated crimes. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

Open house today at Sandy Beach Homes

In response to demand, Sandy Beach Homes residential rental complex in Chalan Kanoa will host an open house today, Oct. 1, to give interested applicants a look at a model home.

Open house for the federal housing program will be held from 8am to 11am at the site in Chalan Kanoa. Visitors should park at the designated parking area south of the former Pacific Gardenia Hotel and follow the signs to the model home on the second floor.

Construction on the six-story, 60-unit project is scheduled for completion in December 2011 and will be open for occupancy in January 2012 to applicants who meet income and other eligibility requirements.

Each of the homes has three bedrooms, two bathrooms, washer/dryer, A/C, insulated double-paned windows, water purification system, solar water heater, and ceiling fans in every room. The refrigerator, stove, and dishwasher are Energy Star-rated. Additional amenities include a balcony overlooking Saipan's western lagoon, a parking garage, typhoon shutters, and security cameras. The facility also includes backup generator and water supply. Four ADA units will also be available.

The Sandy Beach Homes complex sits in the heart of Chalan Kanoa, with several stores, banks, schools, churches and the main post office located within walking distance. The housing complex is funded under a federal housing program through Northern Marianas Housing Corp. The opportunity to stay at Sandy Beach Homes is open to all legal CNMI residents, including non-U.S. citizens, as long as income and other eligibility requirements are met. Families or unrelated individuals may apply as a household.

Applications, a list of required documents, and details about the homes can be found at www.sandybeachhomes.net. For more information, e-mail the leasing office at leasing@sandybeachhomes.net or call 670.235.7263 (SAND). ***(PR)***

Ex-CRM exec allegedly violates release conditions

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona summoned yesterday a former Coastal Resources Management official who was convicted of wire fraud in 2007.

U.S. Probation Officer Gregory F. Arriola petitioned for a warrant or summons last Sept. 23 for Benny K. Pangelinan for allegedly violating his supervised release conditions.

Pangelinan, who was placed on three years of supervised release after completing 37 months in prison, allegedly violated the requirement not to commit any federal, state or local crimes, that he report to the probation officer and submit a truthful and complete written report within the first five days of each month, and to truthfully answer all inquiries and follow the instructions of the probation officer.

A federal jury found Pangelinan guilty in January 2007 on five charges of wire fraud. Then U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson ordered Pangelinan to pay a total of $129,250 in restitution to Pang Hong Cabrera, Renato Batallones, Conrad M. Sablan, Sachiko Adachi, and Gene Oden. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

Avis Rent A Car is looking for highly motivated individuals with great customer service and a friendly and outgoing personality to fill the following positions:

- **Full Time Rental Sales Agent**
  - Japanese speaking preferred
  - Must have computer experience
- **On Call Part Time Automotive Service Detailer**

Applicants must possess a High School diploma or Equivalent, have a valid driver's license and be willing to work flexible hours.

All applications and resumes can be submitted to our Avis counter located at the Saipan International Airport. No phone calls please.

AVIS
We try harder.

Greatest Hindu Religious Festival 2011
(NABA RATRI DURGA PUJA)
RADHA KRISHNA TEMPLE, CNMI HINDU COMMUNITY

Gentlemen/ Women,

You are cordially invited for Hindu Greatest Religion festival 2011 (Nabo Ratri) 'Sri Sri Durga Puja" 2011. The function will be celebrated at Hindu Temple (Radha Krishna Mandir) located at Chalan Kanoa.

The Holy Ceremony will begin with awakening of Goddess Durga on the Sixth Lunar Day of October 2 and will end October 6, 2011.

Your presence will be highly honored.

Thanks,
AKHIL C. MOLLICK
Assistant General Secretary, CNMI Hindu Community

For more information, please call 287-4711/483-8554.

SCHEDULE OF FOUR DAYS WORSHIP OF GODDESS DURGA 2011

Ceremonial beginning of awakening goddess Durga at 6:15:12 p.m. On the 6th LUNAR DAY - October 2nd (Sunday) 2011 and in the evening ceremonial awakening of Goddess Durga and performance preliminary to this solemnity.

1st Day - Worship for 7th LUNAR DAY - October 3rd, (Monday) 2011 starting 4:00 p.m. to ending at 8:00 p.m.

2nd Day - Worship for the 8th LUNAR DAY - October 4th (Tuesday) 2011 starting 5:00 p.m. to ending at 8:30 p.m.

3rd Day - Worship for the 9th LUNAR DAY - October 5th (Wednesday) 2011 starting 5:00 p.m. to ending at 12:00 a.m.

4th Day - Worship and immersion Esp. with solemnities on 10th LUNAR DAY - October 6th (Thursday) 2011 starting 12:00 p.m. to ending at 4:00 p.m.

** **Evening of October 6th (Thursday) 2011.** A Cultural Ceremony of Durga Puja and food distribution at the temple at C.K. starting at 7:00 p.m. to ending at midnight.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Putin's back, unfortunately

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Meet Russia's new boss—same as the old boss.

If anyone was still under the illusion that Russia had evolved from a totalitarian regime into something like a democracy, that notion was dispelled over the weekend when dictator-for-life Vladimir Putin announced that he intended to return to the Kremlin in March. Russia is for all intents and purposes a one-party state, so simply announcing his candidacy makes his election virtually certain.

Putin, who served as president from 2000 to 2008, was forced out of office by a constitutional ban on serving more than two consecutive terms. Rather than leave government, he opted instead to become prime minister and handed the presidency to his ally, then-Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev. Now, the two men will probably switch back, with Putin returning as president and Medvedev becoming prime minister. Because the presidential term has been increased from four years to six, this means Putin could remain in office for 12 more years—by which time he would be 72 and the longest-serving Russian leader since Josef Stalin.

Although few doubted that Putin held the strings of power during Medvedev's four years as president, his imminent return to the top office is being greeted with dismay in Washington. Publicly at least, Medvedev has been far more accommodating to U.S. interests than Putin was during his time as president. Medvedev has worked to improve trade relations with the rest of the world and is actively pursuing Russian membership in the World Trade Organization, a topic of little interest to Putin. Medvedev seemed to have developed a genuine rapport with President Obama on such issues as limiting nuclear weapons, while Putin's term as president was marked by decaying relations with the U.S. under George W. Bush and an overwrought spat over U.S. missile defense sites in Eastern Europe.

But it's the reaction among Russians, rather than Americans, to Putin's naked power grab that we find particularly dismaying. Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said Putin's return could lead to six years of stagnation, but the words of a man adored by the West for his role in dismantling the Soviet empire hold little sway in his native country.

There were scattered protests by a handful of liberal activists after Putin's announcement and some critical articles in the small liberal press. But the dominant response was silence.

Rising oil and gas prices that coincided with Putin's rise to power have greatly increased Russian prosperity, and the return to stability under his authoritarian rule, after a messy transition to democracy in the mid-1990s, has made him irresistibly popular. Yet Putin is extremely unlikely to implement the reforms needed to democratize Russia or reduce its overwhelming corruption.

That means the country is in for a rough future and, with Putin in a position to spearhead his highly aggressive foreign policy stances, so is the rest of the world.

What are the ties that bind us?

By GREGORY RODRIGUEZ
Los Angeles Times

Gregory Rodriguez is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times. *Readers may send him e-mail at grodriguez@latimescolumnists.com.*

Multiculturalism breeds terrorism. That's what British Prime Minister David Cameron said Feb. 5 in a high-profile speech in Germany, thereby opening up an absurd new chapter in the never-ending debate over how much to embrace, exalt and protect cultural differences in Britain and beyond.

Now I'm no fan of multiculturalism, which is essentially the belief that ethnic minorities should be encouraged to maintain their traditions. In Britain, that encouragement extends to state funding for ethnic organizations to ensure cultural continuity for the nation's immigrants. The U.S. employs soft "multiculti"—mostly sloganeering about the glories of diversity.

Common sense tells us that too much emphasis on tribe, ethnicity or previous nationality can be at odds with the common purpose and cohesion of a nation with a large, diverse population. But suggesting that taxpayer support of the corner Bangladeshi knitting circle or a Muslim civil rights organization causes homegrown terrorism is a little like saying sex education creates rapists.

What's interesting about Cameron's speech, however, is not the hyperbole but the poor logic. His solution for dealing with the challenges of diversity, and his confusion about causes and effects, may only make matters worse.

In his speech, Cameron decried multiculturalism's "hands-off tolerance" of some cultural behaviors—he used the example of forced marriages—that are antithetical to Western values. Instead, Britain needs to win the hearts and minds of newcomers with the ideals of personal liberty and individualism, combating multiculturalism-induced rootlessness that can cause some to find a home in political extremism.

Cameron gave his anti-multiculti prescription a name: "muscular liberalism"—a reference to the political philosophy that venerates personal liberty, not to American partisanship. "Freedom of speech, freedom of worship, democracy, the rule of law, equal rights regardless of race, sex or sexuality," Cameron said, would provide "a clear sense of national identity that is open to everyone," especially to young Muslims who are caught between cultures.

The only problem is that the freedoms Cameron champions, worthy as they are, hardly constitute firm "roots." Anglo American liberalism is essentially a collection of abstract ideas, and abstractions simply aren't as effective as bloodlines and religious ritual when it comes to bringing people together as a nation.

The ideology of individual liberty, admits Nancy Rosenblum, a Harvard political scientist and an adherent of liberalism, can produce a "disaffected experience" because "ordinary men and women cannot recognize themselves in it."

In other words, it may not be multiculturalism that breeds rootlessness, but liberalism itself.

A 2010 study on homegrown terrorism by researchers at Duke University and the University of North Carolina bears this out. The researchers found that losing one's familial, traditional cultural identity was a more likely route to radicalization than maintaining those ties. Trying to adopt the values of the new, mainstream culture can sometimes create the kind of alienation that can lead to extremism. To fight the type of terrorism that Cameron fears, the study recommends community-building measures, like multiculturalism, to strengthen ethnic identity.

In reality, neither Cameron nor the multiculturalists have the answer for creating cohesion in modern, diverse, globalized states. Multiculturalists think ethnic cultural continuity will somehow mask the wrenching and sometimes dangerous break with the past that newcomers face. Cameron fantasizes that a reinvigorated, hard-sell approach will make abstract liberal ideals into a tie that binds as tightly as ancient tribal or religious bonds.

Here's the dirty little secret of the Western world: Exalted political ideals notwithstanding, Western democracies have historically fallen back on whatever tribal, racial, ethnic or religious solidarity they can drum up to solidify their identities. France, for instance, had *liberte, egalite* and *fraternite*, but what mattered most was the *ne plus ultra* of ethnic Frenchness. In Britain and the U.S., national unity has been built as much on whiteness as any other factor.

The truth is, without relying on some form of old-fashioned tribalism—or perhaps the unifying effect of a war—we have no idea exactly how the rapidly diversifying nations of the West will cohere moving forward. The only thing we can know for certain is that both sides of the debate over multiculturalism are fooling themselves.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Are rich taxed less than secretaries?

By STEPHEN OHLEMACHER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama makes it sound like there are millionaires all over America paying taxes at lower rates than their secretaries.

"Middle-class families shouldn't pay higher taxes than millionaires and billionaires," Obama said Monday. "That's pretty straightforward. It's hard to argue against that."

The data tells a different story. On average, the wealthiest people in America pay a lot more taxes than the middle class or the poor, according to private and government data. They pay at a higher rate, and as a group, they contribute a much larger share of the overall taxes collected by the federal government.

FACT CHECK

There may be individual millionaires who pay taxes at rates lower than middle-income workers. In 2009, 1,470 households filed tax returns with incomes above $1 million yet paid no federal income tax, according to the Internal Revenue Service. That, however, was less than 1 percent of the nearly 237,000 returns with incomes above $1 million.

In his White House address Monday, Obama called on Congress to increase taxes by $1.5 trillion as part of a 10-year deficit reduction package totaling more than $3 trillion. He proposed that Congress overhaul the tax code and impose what he called the "Buffett rule," named for billionaire investor Warren Buffett.

The rule says, "People making more than $1 million a year should not pay a smaller share of their income in taxes than middle-class families pay."

"Warren Buffett's secretary shouldn't pay a higher tax rate than Warren Buffett. There is no justification for it," Obama said. "It is wrong that in the United States of America, a teacher or a nurse or a construction worker who earns $50,000 should pay higher tax rates than somebody pulling in $50 million."

Buffett wrote in a recent piece for *The New York Times* that the tax rate he paid last year was lower than that paid by any of the other 20 people in his office.

This year, households making more than $1 million will pay an average of 29.1 percent of their income in federal taxes, including income taxes and payroll taxes, according to the Tax Policy Center, a Washington think tank.

Households making between $50,000 and $75,000 will pay 15 percent of their income in federal taxes.

Lower-income households will pay less. For example, households making between $40,000 and $50,000 will pay an average of 12.5 percent of their income in federal taxes. Households making between $20,000 and $30,000 will pay 5.7 percent.

The latest IRS data is a few years older—and it's limited to federal income taxes—but it shows much the same thing. In 2009, taxpayers who made $1 million or more paid on average 24.4 percent of their income in federal income taxes, according to the IRS.

Those making $100,000 to $125,000 paid on average 9.9 percent in federal income taxes. Those making $50,000 to $60,000 paid an average of 6.3 percent.

Obama's claim hinges on the fact that, for high-income families and individuals, investment income is often taxed at a lower rate than wages. The top tax rate for dividends and capital gains is 15 percent. The top marginal tax rate for wages is 35 percent, though that is reserved for taxable income above $379,150.

With tax rates that high, why do so many people pay at lower rates? Because the tax code is riddled with more than $1 trillion in deductions, exemptions and credits, and they benefit people at every income level, according to data from the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation, Congress' official scorekeeper on revenue issues.

The Tax Policy Center estimates that 46 percent of households, mostly low- and medium-income households, will pay no federal income taxes this year. Most, however, will pay other taxes, including Social Security payroll taxes.

"People who are doing quite well and worry about low-income people not paying any taxes bemoan the fact that they get so many tax breaks that they are zeroed out," said Roberton Williams, a senior fellow at the Tax Policy Center. "People at the bottom of the distribution say, but all of those rich guys are getting bigger tax breaks than we're getting, which is also the case."

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner was pressed at a White House briefing on the number of millionaires who pay taxes at a lower rate than middle-income families. He demurred, saying that people who make most of their money in wages pay taxes at a higher rate, while those who get most of their income from investments pay at lower rates.

"So it really depends on what is your profession, where's the source of your income, what's the specific circumstances you face, and the averages won't really capture that," Geithner said.

The green-jobs fallacy

By ED FEULNER
The Heritage Foundation

Ed Feulner is president of The Heritage Foundation.

Think we could use 5 million new jobs right about now? That's what President Obama promised he'd create by "investing" taxpayer money in so-called green jobs. And not just any jobs, he said on the campaign trail in 2008, but ones that "pay well, and can never be outsourced."

Jump ahead three years, and the only "green" you find is the billions being poured into the coffers of renewable-energy companies lucky to even stay in business, let alone create a high number of jobs.

Don't assume what happened to the solar-panel company Solyndra is unique. Its high-profile bankruptcy is basically the green-jobs fallacy writ large.

Consider how these subsidized companies are funded. Are anxious investors ready to shower dollars on wind and solar power because there's great potential to make more money in this promising field? That's how companies get off the ground—and stay there: They attract entrepreneurs who see the chance to make money and are glad to invest.

Companies such as Solyndra, by contrast, apparently can't get by without money confiscated from you and me. (For that matter, they can't even get by with it.) That should tell you something about how viable their product is.

There's a reason that I put quotation marks around the word "invested" above. It's a misnomer. The president and other green-jobs proponents use it because it implies we'll see a return on our money—a return that has so far proved to be an illusion.

Green jobs are few in number, and they're costly. "The president's own Council of Economic Advisors admitted recently that only 225,000 clean energy jobs were either created or saved and cost the taxpayer $355,000 per job," Thomas Pyle, president of the Institute for Energy Research, writes in U.S. News&World Report.

The green lobby also claims that energy regulations can reduce unemployment. More people have to be hired to help companies comply with the regs, right? But they're overlooking the way the added costs wind up being passed on to consumers in the form of higher prices. And not just from the energy companies themselves, but from other industries as well.

Almost every product we use, after all, is made using some form of energy.

Remember, too, that government spending has to come from somewhere.

Money that likely would have been put to a more productive use has been funneled to a politically favored industry. As energy expert Nicolas Loris notes, "When the government gives money to build a windmill, those resources cannot simultaneously be used to build other products."

Simply put, the government is picking winners and losers. Or trying to, at least—the government record on such efforts is, well, a losing one.

We saw it when President Carter was in office. The money he "invested" in a fruitless quest to create synthetic fuels proved an expensive failure. Well, the same dynamic is at work today when President Obama gives taxpayer funds to companies such as Solyndra. But good intentions are no substitute for a sound business plan.

Some will still argue that renewable energy is a worthwhile goal. But it has to be renewable energy that works. And if the potential to make money was there, private funds would follow, no problem.

Subsidies wouldn't be necessary. The fact that they are tells you a lot about the real job-creating potential of renewable energy.

A new report from the House Budget Committee sums up the situation up: "The government-as-investor model distorts markets, weakens the rule of law, wastes taxpayer dollars, and fails to spur sustainable job creation." So why are we allowing the green agenda to drive us further into the red?

How tea partyers in Congress could decide 2012 election

By PETER GOLDMARK
Newsday

Peter Goldmark, a former publisher of the International Herald Tribune, *headed the climate program at the Environmental Defense Fund. He wrote this for* Newsday.

A friend asked me the other day who I thought would win the presidential election of 2012.

Whoa, I said. That's like asking who will win the World Series—next year.

But maybe it makes sense to spend a little time thinking about the election of 2012, because the country is in such serious trouble, and there are some wild cards in play.

At the core of the American governmental structure is a system of checks and balances on the exercise of power. And this generates in turn the requirement for a strong and sustained national consensus before any serious new policies can be instituted, since so many different parts of the system have to agree on moving forward. Today we're in deep economic and financial difficulty, and strong new policies are needed. By "new" policies, I don't mean revolutionary.

I mean commonsense policies that are long overdue: emphasizing investment rather than consumption as the engine of growth, not spending more than we take in, and slowly working down our crippling operating deficit and excessive national debt. We're also deeply divided politically—and therefore paralyzed. So the primary job of the man or woman elected president in November 2012 will be to overcome our divisions and unite us around a strong, common program of serious action. So what does the field look like? The Republican jousting has started. Candidates are performing various versions of the "veer-to-the-right" required by the strong role of the extreme right in their party's selection process. Several of them are so extreme as to virtually guarantee their inability to pull the country together around a serious program aimed at economic growth and financial stability should they be elected.

If re-elected, President Barack Obama will have to act much more forcefully to mobilize a consensus, and argue much more aggressively and convincingly against the forces of extremism and paralysis, than he has to date. We simply don't know today whether he will—or even can—do that.

But I think there will be serious third- and even fourth-party candidates. The mixture of a country in trouble, the volatility and unpredictability of the political landscape, and the lack of commanding candidates on the scene adds up to a heady invitation to others to conclude that this is the time for them to run outside the two main parties. Efforts in that direction have already started—see Americanselect.org—and there will be more.

All that in turn produces the real possibility of a result we haven't seen for nearly two centuries in this country: an election in which no one gains a majority of electoral votes and therefore is thrown into the House of Representatives.

The Constitution provides that if there is no winner in the Electoral College, then the election shall be decided by the House of Representatives. Each state votes as a unit, casting its single vote for one of the top three candidates in the general election. Its choice is determined by a vote of the members of the House delegation from that state. In other words: To win, a candidate must get 26 votes out of the 50 states, and the House members from each state vote as a caucus to determine which candidate gets their state's vote.

This is a sobering thought. Our current House of Representatives is dominated by the extreme right of the Republican Party. Will the House elected in November 2012 be similar? What we need to move forward is a strong national consensus that most of us can feel comfortable with, and it's hard for me to believe that a candidate chosen by an extremist bloc would do anything other than continue to divide us.

The tea party crowd may get what it wants in the ninth inning after all, but the result may be to paralyze us even further.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼78°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

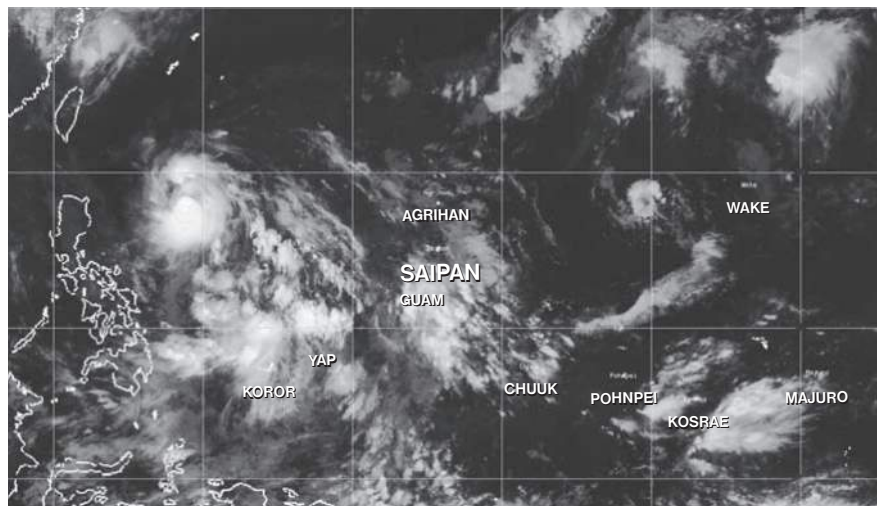
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Palau	Rain	▲84	▼77
Yap	Rain	▲83	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼75
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲91	▼77
Majuro	Rain	▲86	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲62	▼57
Beijing	Sunny	▲68	▼44
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼75
Honolulu	Showers	▲86	▼76
London	Sunny	▲81	▼57
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲82	▼61
Manila	Thundershowers	▲83	▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲64	▼44
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼73
New York	Rain	▲65	▼48
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲72	▼59
Paris	Sunny	▲80	▼52
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼56
Rome	Sunny	▲85	▼60
Salem	Showers	▲65	▼50
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲65	▼58
Seoul	Sunny	▲66	▼45
Tokyo	Showers	▲65	▼58
Washington, DC	Showers	▲55	▼47

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Nalgae (22W) is centered 815 miles southwest of Iwo To island near 18N131E and moving westward at 15 mph with maximum sustained winds of 80 mph. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near the center within 100 miles of a line from 16N130E to 19N133E. For more detailed information on Nalgae, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN33 PGTW and National Weather Service Guam under WMO header WTPQ33 PGUM. A monsoon trough extends south-southeastward from Typhoon Nalgae through a developing circulation centered between Koror and Yap near 9N136E to end at EQ139E. Widely scattered to scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the trough and circulation over Koror and Yap within 190 miles of a line from 4N134E to 17N138E. Converging southeast winds to the east of the trough are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms well south of Guam between 2N and 9N from 141E to 150E and also over the northern CNMI but just east of Saipan and Guam within 90 miles of a line from 12N148E to 19N146E to 25N146E. Converging trade winds are producing scattered showers and few thunderstorms over Kosrae between 3N and 8N from 159E to 166E and also over Jaluit and Ebon atolls within 135 miles of a line from 1N166E to 6N171E. An upper-level low centered near 19N159E is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southwest of Wake Island between 16N and 19N from 158E to 163E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:12 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
10:57 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
4:36 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
9:41 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:07 AM	6:07 PM
Sunday	6:07 AM	6:06 PM
Monday	6:07 AM	6:05 PM
Tuesday	6:07 AM	6:05 PM
Wednesday	6:07 AM	6:04 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:42 AM	9:19 PM
Sunday	10:43 AM	10:17 PM
Monday	11:42 AM	11:16 PM
Tuesday	12:36 PM	
Wednesday	1:24 PM	12:13 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2011

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C09314	2:20am	2:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C09315	4:25am	5:00am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C09315	4:25am	6:00am	1, 5 via ROP
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K386	5:50pm	6:40pm	4, 7
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily
5K382	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)			
5K212	8:20am	10:55am	3, 4, 7
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:05am	8:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/191	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	9:55pm	Daily via NRT
C09313/183	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09603/183	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM
C09603/193	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
5K168	9:45am	12:55pm	1, 5
C09603/179	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C09315	5:30am	6:00am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C09314	3:20am	3:55am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C09314	2:20am	3:55am	1, 5 via ROP
C09316	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
5K387	6:30am	7:20am	3, 7
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K389	8:10am	9:00am	1, 5
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily
NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN			
5K213	11:55am	4:25pm	3, 4, 7
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:05pm	12:45am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:45am	12:45am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0192/9596	9:55pm	7:25am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:25am+1	5 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
C0184/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C0184/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
5K169	2:20pm	9:25pm	1, 5
C0180/9596	10:30pm	7:25am+1	5 via GUM
C0180/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Amen Church
Sunday : 10am, 1pm, 5pm Wednesday : 7pm Friday Prayer : 9pm Bible Study : 4pm (Tue) Music Practice : 5pm (Sat) Korean class: 3:30pm (Thu) Visitation : 10am(Fri, Sat) Outreach : 8am (First Sat) Tel. No. 285-2121, 256-2221 Email : oseyo@daum.net

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road,
Call 285-6081 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa
(east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service: 10 am at Seventh Day Adventist church on Quartermaster Rd.
Wednesday Service: 7 pm at Fina Sisu Housing FS#1
Contact Nick for more info: 287-1661

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)
Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm
San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church Koblerville
Sunday services:
Sunday school 9:00am
Morning worship 10:00am
Evening service 6:00pm
Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm

Chinese services
Sunday morning 10:00am
Sunday evening 7:00pm

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.
Telephone No: 285-4661/2

Thy Word Ministries Saipan
Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service
located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi

Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian
Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Victorious Christian Church
(Formerly God's Victorious Army)
Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service
Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship
Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup
Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service
Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting
Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice
Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting
Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Oct. 1, 1999

CUC asks court to drop O'Connor's lawsuit
The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. yesterday asked the Superior Court to dismiss a lawsuit filed three years ago by attorney Robert O'Connor, who had accused the agency of trespassing onto his private property. William Ohle, attorney for CUC, said O'Connor has no proof—such as a written contract—to support his lawsuit. The case stemmed from CUC's installation of electric power line connecting a customer's house on Mt. Tapochau to the CUC's power distribution lines. The electric pole was constructed in 1996 to provide power supply to Lot No. 153E08 belonging to Dr. George Harthorn.

PSS seeks exemption
Education officials are asking the government to exempt the Public School System from a law that requires every government agency to share one percent of its total budget with the Office of the Public Auditor. "PSS should be allowed to keep that one percent for itself since we do our own audit," Board of Education member Marja Lee Taitano said during a committee meeting Wednesday. Taitano said an official of the Attorney General's Office has assured her that PSS could request for exemption from the budget-sharing requirement. The law, which provides this requirement, was designed to keep OPA totally independent from the Governor's Office and the Legislature, and avoid a situation which would compromise the agency's auditing activities.

Oct. 1, 2001

CPA suspends hike in airport charges
The Commonwealth Ports Authority Board of Directors voted to extend the implementation of the Airline Incentive Program until 2002, in light of the looming aviation crisis brought on by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacked on the US. The extension automatically delays the implementation of the new and higher landing fees, which were originally scheduled to be enforced beginning today. However, the new schedule of rates at the seaport will be implemented by the CPA starting today, although the ports authority will continue discussions on whether to suspend it or not. During a special meeting Friday, the CPA board decided to extend the incentive program, which grants 50 percent discount in arrival and departure fees to CNMI signatory airlines that are able to bring up their arrival figures by 15 percent from their current traffic load.

Senate overrides line item veto on CIP bill
Dialysis centers may soon rise on Tinian and Rota, soon after the Senate overrode the line item veto made by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio on a measure that would appropriate $73.56 million for several Capital Improvement Projects in the CNMI. Saying they do not understand the Governor's reason for vetoing the construction of dialysis centers on Rota and Tinian, majority of senators voted to override Tenorio's line-item veto on Public Law 12-64, with only Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero voting "no." Sen. Pedro P. Reyes was absent during the session.

Oct. 1, 2002

Senate OKs changes to state funeral law
Proposed changes to the Commonwealth state funeral statute-pertaining to those who are and are not entitled to the honor-were approved by the Senate last week. If enacted into law, past or incumbent elected officials, who have been impeached, recalled or expelled or those that have been convicted in the Commonwealth of a felony or crime of moral turpitude for which there was no official pardon from the Governor, are not entitled to state funerals. Elected officials who have served on the Board of Education are also not entitled to a state funeral, according to Senate Bill 13-83, as authored by Sen. Joaquin Adriano.

Chuuk governor thanks NMI
The Governor of Chuuk State in the Federated States of Micronesia has thanked Gov. Juan N. Babauta and the people of the Commonwealth for the generous help extended to Chuuk in the aftermath of Typhoon Chata'an. In a letter to Babauta, the Chuukese governor, Dr. Ansito Walter, said the people of Chuuk immensely owe the CNMI and its people gratitude for its rapid response to the disaster that struck the state. "You have indeed exemplified far beyond the norm of your executive duty as Governor of the CNMI, in some respect, for which the people the Chuuk State immensely owe you immeasurable gratitude for responding in the most expeditious manner possible to the calamitous situation and generously contributing to the critically needed medicines, food, clothing and other emergency supplies for which we are so deeply grateful," Walter told Babauta.

Maharlika

‘Guarded optimism’ among Filipino community leaders

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

About 40 Filipino leaders representing major organizations on island attended Thursday a meeting organized by the Philippine Consulate General “to feel the pulse” of the Filipino community.

Consul General Medardo Macaraig said key organizations such as the United Filipino Organization, Dekada Movement, Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs, Ltd. or MAHAL, Coalition for the Recognition, Equality and Advancement of American Minorities or CREAM, Masons, and Lions Clubs were well-represented at the meeting.

Macaraig said the meeting aimed to provide a venue for these Filipino leaders to talk freely about the key points raised during the various outreach sessions hosted by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services on the final rule for all foreign workers.

“The community leaders exchanged and clarified information based on their understanding from attending these sessions and it was a frank exchange of views,” he said yesterday.

While the meeting had an “upbeat” mood, Macaraig noted that these community leaders showed an outlook of “guarded optimism.”

“They’re upbeat and optimistic, so to speak, because many Filipino workers will still be hired. But then again, they don’t want to over-anticipate things due to lingering uncertainties,” Macaraig told *Saipan Tribune*.

Macaraig said that vital to the ongoing talks about the final rule that surfaced during the meeting is the release of the prevailing wage survey of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce that would help employers who would need to petition their employees for H1B visas.

“Although the final rule is out, the situation remains that the foreign workers are still needed,” he added.

Macaraig emphasized that the current situation is not a “hopeless” one, reiterating the three options that the Consulate has continuously promoted: to legally stay in the CNMI, seek greener pastures in another foreign soil, or go back to the Philippines and look for a source of income as an entrepreneur.

Government assistance

According to Macaraig, the Consulate is anticipating that some 3,000 foreign workers—mostly Filipinos—who are unemployed and currently without status will seek assistance from their office. The figure, he said, is “based on the governor’s statement in the absence of an actual survey.”

Since September, though, Macaraig said the Consulate has only provided assistance to three Filipino workers, with the last one going back to the Philippines last Monday. A fourth individual is already waiting for a plane ticket, he added.

“The surge we are expecting is not happening. It’s not alarmingly high. I don’t know if it’s going to change in the next few days or as November draws near,” said Macaraig.

While they can extend assistance to those who make a written request to the Consulate, Macaraig said they would need to time to review the request, endorse it to their Manila office, and make arrangements.

“We already appealed to community leaders to direct to the Consulate those who want to seek help. But please give us time,” he said.

Macaraig cited the importance of being a member of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration as there is assurance of help for these members.

According to Macaraig, more than two-thirds of Filipino workers in the CNMI are OWWA members.

While the Consulate would assist in repatriating Filipinos who fail to secure a legal status in the CNMI, Macaraig noted that OWWA will go after the Filipino workers’ last employer on record should they be found liable to pay for the workers’ repatriation.

Not true

The Consul General also dispelled rumors circulating in the Filipino community about ships that would transport Filipinos without status back to the Philippines.

“That is not true. There will be no mass repatriation,” said Macaraig.

Macaraig believes that the rumor is one way for Filipinos to infuse humor and smile in dealing with a serious situation.

“Filipinos have always been known for their sense of humor,” he said. “Despite the seriousness of the situation, we manage to make fun of it while dealing with it.”

Macaraig added that he remains positive that Filipinos in the CNMI are capable of “going beyond” the current circumstances.

With release of final CW rule, Philippine consulate sees rise in passport renewals

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Chalan Laulau resident Larry Santiago, left, waits for his turn to renew his passport at the Philippine Consulate General yesterday morning. Consul General Macaraig noted an increase in the number of passport application and renewal since the release of the final worker rule for foreign workers in the CNMI.

Larry Santiago, 44, only recently became aware that his Philippine passport had already expired in May.

“I didn’t realize that my passport already expired,” admits the Chalan Laulau resident yesterday morning. “I honestly thought it was still valid until next year.”

Santiago is among the many Filipinos who have been lining up at the Philippine Consulate General on the fifth floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe to renew their passports.

Consul General Medardo Macaraig noted in an interview Friday that their office has seen an increase in the number of passport renewal applications since the release of the final rule governing foreign workers in the CNMI last Sept. 7.

“There is a surge in the number of passport renewal applications. Previously we would entertain about 15 a day. Now we’re always serving in the high 40s. We even had as much as over 60 a day,” Macaraig told *Saipan Tribune*.

Some of these passports are about to expire while a lot have already expired, he said.

Macaraig revealed that their busiest period is from 8am to 9am and 5pm to 6pm. “That’s when a lot of people would arrive in droves, in which case we would have all our three e-passport units occupied.”

According to Macaraig, a lot of the passport renewal applicants he talked to disclosed that the CW petition for workers have become their basis to process their travel documents.

Santiago, who is currently employed in a company that specializes in building maintenance and repair, disclosed that one key reason why he renewed his passport upon finding out that it’s already expired is that he wants to have a valid travel document should it be required of him once he is petitioned by his employer.

“If in case a valid passport is needed for the CW petition, I want to have it ready,” he said.

Macaraig, for his part, said, “It’s good that they have anticipated that the passport might be required for the final worker rule.”

Another notable observation, Macaraig said, is the rise in passport applications for minors who were born here.

A woman, who brought two of her eight U.S. citizen children to the Consulate yesterday, said she is applying for a Philippine passport for only one daughter.

“I’m only applying for a Philippine passport for my daughter so that if in case I decide to send her to the Philippines, I don’t have to pay any taxes,” said the woman who declined to be identified.

Since June, the Consulate has been issuing the ePassport, which has an integrated circuit chip at the back cover that guarantees authenticity and conforms to the highest security standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization.

The ePassport fee is $60.

For information about passport renewal and application, stop by the Consulate office, visit www.philippinessaipan.org, or call 234-1848.

55 avail of medical mission services

A total of 55 community members availed of the free services offered at the medical mission hosted by the Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ 4th Watch last month.

Church spokesperson Ronnie Doca said the medical mission, held at their San Jose church grounds on Sept. 25, saw 39 individuals who got free blood sugar screening; 38 for blood pressure; 26 for free haircut; 22 for counseling; 18 for reflexology; and 13 each for facial massage and eye check up.

Doca said the services were provided by volunteers from Marianas Eye Institute, the Northern Marianas College Nursing Club, Tropical Blend Salon, and other church volunteers.

Sponsors for the medical mission were Seventh-Day Adventist Clinic, Transamerica, Tan Holdings, and Kevin’s Department Store.

“To all volunteers and to all our sponsors, I simply want to thank all of you for your untiring support during the whole year of our medical mission and I will be expecting you next year for another round of community service for all the people of the CNMI,” Doca told *Saipan Tribune*.

Doca said their church will be celebrating their 12th anniversary on Sunday, Oct. 2. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

Start of ‘ber’ months sees rise in shipments of *balikbayan* boxes

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

LBC Mabuhay Saipan, which provides freight services for Filipinos on island who wish to send gifts and *pasalubong* to their loved ones in the Philippines, is seeing an increase in the number of boxes they receive and ship out.

But Valentino Gatchalian, manager for the LBC Mabuhay USA Corp. affiliate, belied rumors that the increase is caused by the release of the final rule governing foreign workers in the CNMI last Sept. 7.

Rather, he says it has more to do with the approaching holiday season.

“Usually, we get more customers once the ‘ber months come in,” Gatchalian told *Saipan Tribune*, referring to the months from September to December, considered as the holiday season by most, if not all Filipinos.

Gatchalian said LBC Mabuhay Saipan, with its main office in Susupe and another branch in Garapan, sends an average of two 20-foot containers per month, with each container holding about 180 boxes to be shipped to different parts of the Philippines.

Sending a *balikbayan* box costs $55 each, inclusive of the $7 deposit to be paid upon obtaining the box.

During the peak holiday season, Gatchalian said that they send as many as three containers.

“Based on experience, we really see a rise in the number of boxes we send to the Philippines, particularly during the first week of November since that’s our cut-off we give our customers if they want to have their packages received in time for Christmas,” said Gatchalian, who has been with LBC Mabuhay Saipan since 2001.

Gatchalian noted that the number of boxes they sell is not an accurate reflection of the *balikbayan* boxes they ship out, given that some customers use the boxes for other purposes.

“Even those who travel to the U.S. mainland also make use of our boxes because its size is standard and is acceptable in all airlines,” he explained.

The LBC Susupe location is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 7:30pm and Saturday to Sunday from 9am to 7pm. The Garapan location is open Monday to Friday from 10am to 7:30pm and Saturday to Sunday from 10am to 7pm.

For more information, call Susupe branch at 234-9013 or Garapan branch at 233-5605.

Meeting set for alien parents of US-citizen kids with disabilities

Nonresident parents of U.S. citizen children with disabilities are invited to a general meeting on Oct. 2, at 3pm, at the Susupe Park. For more information call Jane at 235-7039. ***(PR)***

IT&E's 'Kababayan Jam' draws big crowd in Guam

Pokwang

Martin

Reyes

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

GUAM—Three Filipino TV and movie personalities recently held a concert at the jam-packed Micronesia Mall in Guam for the *Kababayan Jam 2011: Handog Saya sa Pinoy.*

Offered by network provider IT&E in partnership with Globe Telecom, the two-hour show drew more than 2,000 spectators and featured Star Magic celebrities Pokwang, Coco Martin, and Cristine Reyes.

IT&E marketing service specialist Pal Lansigan told *Saipan Tribune* that Monday's concert had so far the biggest crowd of the *Kababayan Jam* series in Guam.

He said this was the company's first offering for the year and promised to bring more joy to their Filipino customers who have been patronizing their services throughout the years.

IT&E and Globe Telecom started the *Kababayan Jam* three years ago. In June 2010, they also brought in popular artists Anne Curtis and Diether Ocampo for a similar show that was also warmly welcomed by its customers. Pokwang's group was the fourth batch since 2009.

Hundreds of spectators were already lined up as early as 2pm to wait for the start of the show. The event was scheduled for 3:30pm but minor security concerns delayed its prompt opening. Members of the audiences told *Saipan Tribune*, however, that it was all worth it.

If spectators went wild when comedian Pokwang appeared on stage and rendered an energetic version of Lady Gaga's *Bad Romance*, they went even wilder as she belted out Celion Dion's *One Moment in Time* as she went down to the crowd. Her finale was described by spectators as the highlight of the show.

In a later interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Pokwang said she was overwhelmed by the hospitality shown by Filipinos in Guam. "This is my third show here in Guam and I am always looking forward to doing it again for our *kababayans* [countrymen]. I know it's really difficult living away from their families, and this is only one way of cheering them up for all their sacrifices," she said.

Pokwang did her first show in Guam in 2008 under a different company. She thanked IT&E and Globe Telecom for making her third show possible this year.

Coco Martin, for his part, made the moment especially memorable for grandmothers in the audience, as he dedicated and serenaded them with his rendition of *Tayong Dalawa,* the theme song for one of his television soaps of the same title.

Fans of Cristine Reyes were also entertained with her rendition of popular OPM songs *Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang* and *Hawak Kamay.*

IT&E also gave way free cellular phones, prepaid cards, gas coupons, and other gifts to spectators. Lucky customers were also given the opportunity to meet and greet Martin, Reyes, and Pokwang and have as special dinner treat with them.

Skills upgrading courses give hope

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Labor representative Carmelina Velasquez is pleased that a number of Filipino workers on Saipan have already registered for the three skills upgrading and livelihood courses they will offer for the last quarter of 2011.

Velasquez disclosed that since they released the new schedule of courses a little over a week ago, 26 have already signed up for Basic Computer Operations I – Batch 54, which runs from Oct. 16 to Nov. 20, while 29 have enrolled in the Domestic Refrigeration and Aircon Mechanic – Batch 2, from Nov. 5 to 19.

The Fruit and Vegetable Carving class – Batch 3, which begins today and concludes on Oct. 22, has a total of 48 enrollees.

In the third quarter training, a total of 77 graduated from Culinary Arts; 55 from Basic Computer Operations I – Batch 53; 17 from Basic Mandarin Language – Batch 2; and 32 from Building & Fixing Computers – Batch 9.

The Domestic Refrigeration and Aircon Mechanic – Batch I, which is still ongoing, has 55 students.

"It really shows that Filipinos here are interested to learn new things that will give them options," Velasquez told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Velasquez, the significant number of enrollees is proof that these Filipino workers "haven't lost hope."

"In a way, this is something to help prepare themselves. There is already acceptance. At least now they know their options. Rest assured that we will continue to provide these livelihood courses for them," she added.

Velasquez said that for this quarter, they opted to offer the basic courses for computer as well as refrigeration and aircon mechanic "to have new students get involved and benefit in these courses."

"By next year, we will continue with the advance training in our computer and language courses," she said.

OFWs urged to be more than just 'balikbayans'

By JAMIE ELONA, JERRY E. ESPLANADA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

"Be more than a balikbayan. Ibalik sa bayan ang kaalaman at kakayahan (Share your talents and skills with the nation)."

With this slogan, the Commission on Filipinos Overseas launched "Diaspora to Development" or the D2D program, which aims to engage the estimated 8.5 million Filipinos abroad in the development initiatives of the Aquino administration.

Made in partnership with the nongovernment organization Youth Leaders in the Diaspora (YouLead) and two Filipino-American groups, the D2D launch was a highlight of the 1st Global Summit of Filipinos in the Diaspora held recently at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City.

The three-day conference drew some 400 participants, including lawyer Loida Nicolas Lewis, chair of the US Pinoys for Good Governance; and Dr. Aurora Cudal, head of the National Federation of Filipino-American Associations for Region 10.

The leaders of the two Fil-Am groups were among the U.S.-based Filipinos who campaigned for President Benigno Aquino III and his running mate Manuel "Mar" Roxas in the May 2010 elections, according to CFO chairperson Imelda Nicolas.

'Return something'

In an interview, Nicolas said the program was not necessarily asking overseas Filipinos "to return home physically (in order) to make a difference. Instead, we're asking them to return something to their native Philippines."

"Not just the usual *balikbayan* boxes of canned goods and personal items. But this time, we're asking them to share their talents and skills," she said. "Brain drain can lead to brain gain and brain exchange in a productive cycle."

Nicolas said the D2D program hoped to tap overseas Filipinos in development initiatives "ranging from diaspora philanthropy to diaspora investment, from doing business in the Philippines to science and technology transfer, from arts and cultural exchanges to tourism projects, among others."

It also sought to "engage the second- and third-generation overseas Filipinos through YouLead," she added.

These younger generations "may have been raised abroad, (but) they continue to keep their social and cultural ties with the Philippines and would like to actively participate in local and national development efforts," the CFO, an attached agency of the Office of the President, noted in a separate statement.

According to Nicolas, 47 percent of the 8.5 million Filipinos abroad are permanent residents or citizens of their host countries.

"Only 45 percent of the total are overseas workers, while the remaining 8 percent are the so-called TNTs or illegal migrants," she said.

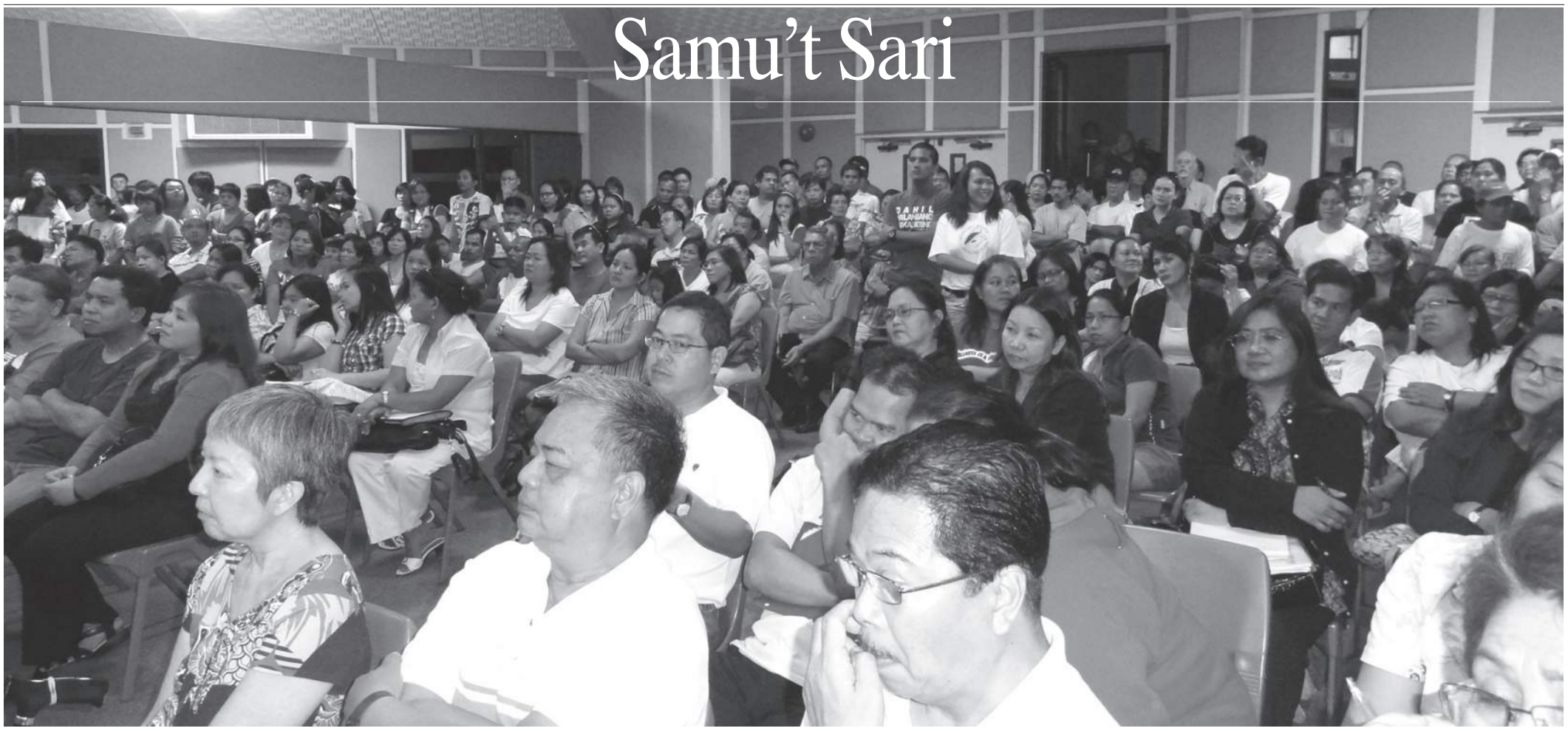
Aquino's message

In a message to the summit delegates, President Aquino said: "Your countrymen are indeed grateful for your hard work, which has improved the lives of the people you love and has contributed much to our common goal of revitalizing the Philippines."

"There is much we can still do, among the urgent being to translate your assistance into sustainable development programs," he added.

"With the D2D program, we look forward to more investments, initiatives, exchanges, and advocacies that match the needs of our people," Aquino said.

Samu't Sari



ITOS FELICIANO

OUTREACH SESSION

Some 200 adults and children pack the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on Wednesday night for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' public outreach session on the final worker rule, as well as for the peaceful rally of U.S. citizen children seeking improved immigration status for their nonresident parents or asking for options for them to continue to remain in the CNMI after Nov. 27, 2011. USCIS has been saying that options are available including applying for CW or H1B status, or parole in place, among other things.

ITOS FELICIANO

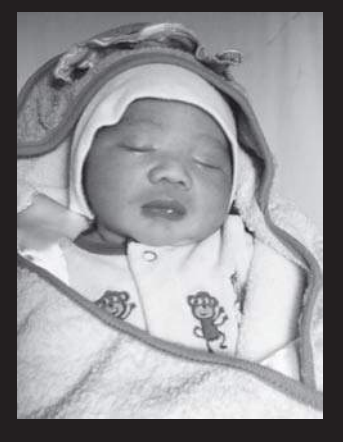
Some nonresident workers at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on Wednesday night for the USCIS public outreach session on the final worker rule.

ITOS FELICIANO

U.S. citizen children of nonresident parents with their placards.

Happy birthday greetings go out to Daphne Rylee Cruzana, who is celebrating her 7th birthday today, Oct. 1, 2011. May this birthday start a new turn in your world. May it also bring forth joy, happiness, and favor your way. Have a great one! God bless! Greetings come from your Chan family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Welcome to the world, Damian Aguon Tallie! Damian was born on Tuesday at 2:26pm—happy birthday son! Love, Mommy Maureen and Daddy Nestor.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

More bad news for bank customers: Debit card fees

NEW YORK (AP)—Bank of America will start charging debit-card users $5 a month to pay for purchases. The move comes as the cards increasingly replace cash and as banks look for ways to offset the loss of revenue from a new rule that will limit how much they can collect from merchants.

Paying to use a debit card was unheard of before this year and is still a novel concept for many consumers. But several banks have recently introduced or started testing debit card fees. That's in addition to the spate of other unwelcome changes checking account customers have seen in the past year. Bank of America will begin charging the fee early next year.

Bank of America's announcement carries added weight because it is the largest U.S. bank by deposits.

The fee will apply to basic accounts, which are marketed toward those with modest balances, and will be in addition to any existing monthly service fees. For example, one such account charges a $12 monthly fee unless customers meet certain conditions, such as maintaining a minimum average balance of $1,500.

Customers will only be charged the fee if they use their debit cards for purchases in any given month, said Anne Pace, a Bank of America spokeswoman. Those who only use their cards at ATMs won't have to pay.

The debit card fee is just the latest twist in the rapidly evolving market for checking accounts.

A study by Bankrate.com this week found that just 45 percent of checking accounts are now free with no strings attached, down from 65 percent last year and 76 percent in 2009. Customers can still get free checking in most cases, but only if they meet certain conditions, such as setting up direct deposit.

The study also found that the total average cost for using an ATM rose to $3.81, from $3.74, the year before. The average overdraft fee inched up to $30.83, from $30.47

The changes come ahead of a regulation that goes into effect next month.

Starting Oct. 1, the regulation will cap the fees that banks can collect from merchants whenever customers swipe their debit cards. Those fees generated $19 billion in revenue for banks in 2009, according to the Nilson Report, which tracks the payments industry.

There is no similar cap on the merchant fees that banks can collect when customers use their credit cards, however. That means many banks are increasingly encouraging customers to reach for their credit cards, in hopes of reversing a trend toward debit card usage in the past several years.

An increasing reliance on credit cards would be particularly beneficial for big institutions like Bank of America, which have large credit card portfolios, notes Bart Narter, a banking analyst with Celent, a consulting firm.

"It's become a more profitable business, at least in relation to debit cards," Narter said.

AP

In this July 17, 2009 file photo, a customer uses a Bank of America ATM in Charlotte, N.C. Bank of America plans to start charging customers a $5 monthly debit card fee. The fee will be rolled out starting early in 2012.

Killer cantaloupe, scary sprouts—what to do?

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Avoid foreign produce. Wash and peel your fruit. Keep it refrigerated. None of these common tips would have guaranteed your safety from the deadliest food outbreak in a decade, the one involving cantaloupes from Colorado.

Whether it's sprouts or spinach, turkey or hamburger; whether the government doubled, tripled or quadrupled inspections, the truth is that no food will ever be completely free of risk.

And a few foods have become so risky that certain people such as children, pregnant women and the elderly may do best to avoid them altogether until growers and the government figure out how to make them safer, some food experts say.

An unappetizing fact: Although the current cantaloupe outbreak has been tied to just one farm in Colorado, it's at least the 19th outbreak involving that melon since 1984. It's also the first one caused by listeria, a germ that actually likes to be in the refrigerator and thrives in this fruit, which cannot be cooked unless you want to eat melon mush.

Listeria also prompted a California farm to recall bags of chopped romaine lettuce on Thursday because of possible contamination, though no illnesses have been reported. The greens from Salinas-based True Leaf Farms went to an Oregon distributor and possibly at least two other states—Washington and Idaho.

So what should you do if you see cantaloupe on a salad bar or at the grocery store? Can you be sure all of the tainted stuff has been pulled from the market, since the last bad melons were shipped on Sept. 10? What if no one knows where the cantaloupe was grown?

"If the store can't tell them or the restaurant can't tell them, I would not buy it at all," said Chris Waldrop, director of the Food Policy Institute at the Consumer Federation of America.

Laura Anderko, a Georgetown University public health expert, went a step further.

"Honestly, as a nurse, I would tell people don't eat the cantaloupe until this thing resolves itself," she said. "This stuff happens because our system is not as tight as it needs to be."

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which has confirmed 13 deaths and 72 illnesses in the outbreak so far, has not told people to stop buying cantaloupe. However, the CDC and the Food and Drug Administration cannot even say where all of the tainted melon went, because it was sold and resold to many distributors across the nation.

Economy gaining but not enough to cut unemployment

WASHINGTON (AP)—The economy is showing signs of modest improvement—not enough to reduce high unemployment but enough to ease fears that another recession might be near.

Fewer people applied for unemployment benefits last week, though some of that was due to technical factors. And the economy grew slightly more in the April-June quarter than previously estimated. Growth is also expected to tick up in coming months.

Investors drew some hope from the latest data, as well as from news that Germany's government approved a plan to bolster Europe's response to its debt crisis. The Dow Jones industrial average finished up 143 points, or 1.3 percent, after a day of volatile trading.

Some of the news Thursday wasn't encouraging. Chief executives of the nation's largest companies are more pessimistic than they were just three months ago, according to a survey by a trade group, the Business Roundtable.

Only about one-third of the CEOs said they plan to hire or boost spending in the next six months. That's down from about half who said so in June.

And fewer Americans signed contracts to buy homes in August, the second straight month of declines.

The economy expanded at an annual rate of 1.3 percent in the April-June quarter, up from an estimate of 1 percent a month ago, the Commerce Department said. The improvement reflected modestly higher consumer spending and a bigger boost from trade.

Even so, the economy grew at an annual rate of just 0.9 percent in the first six months of the year. That's the weakest six-month performance since the recession ended more than two years ago.

Many Americans are spending less because they're paying off debt. That trend is likely to hold back the economy in the months ahead.

Michelle Fregoso, 32, and her husband recently put off buying a new car, and they canceled a gym membership. They're focused on paying off their credit cards.

All the talk of slow growth and a possible recession has made Fregoso, who lives and works outside Chicago, more cautious.

"Obviously the economy stinks," she said. "We just want to be careful about how we're spending our money."

Weak consumer spending, high unemployment and financial market turmoil could slow growth for the rest of this year.

Most economists don't expect another recession. But they also don't see growth accelerating much. Many foresee a rebound to between 2 percent and 2.5 percent growth in the current quarter.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Japan factory production rises for fifth month

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's factory production rose for the fifth straight month in August, almost restoring it to levels recorded before the March earthquake and tsunami disasters. Industrial output climbed 0.8 percent from the previous month, according to a Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry report Friday. Sectors driving gains included transport equipment, electronic parts, and iron and steel. The ministry said industrial production has almost fully recovered from the March disasters but warned of uncertainty ahead.

Airlines should get govt loans, committee says

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government should help airlines install billions of dollars' worth of equipment in their planes necessary to use a new air traffic control system through loans or loan guarantees, an industry-government advisory committee recommended Thursday. Repayment of the loans, which could involve public-private partnerships, would be triggered by the Federal Aviation Administration achieving promised benefits from the new system, the committee said.

Gingrich calls for changes in taxes, health care

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—Hoping to revive his flagging bid for the Republican presidential nomination, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich is calling for an overhaul of the way Americans pay taxes, buy health care and contribute to the Social Security system. Gingrich mapped out the 10-point plan, which he's calling The 21st Century Contract with America, in a speech at a Des Moines insurance company Thursday. Key elements include repealing President Barack Obama's health care plan, giving taxpayers the option of paying a flat tax and allowing young people to opt out of Social Security.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
11,153.98	1,160.40	2,480.76
+143.08	0.00	-10.82
+1.30%	0.00%	-0.43%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.0217	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7916	Philippine Peso	43.845
British Pound	0.641	Indian Rupee	48.9737	Singapore Dollar	1.2962
Canadian Dollar	1.0389	Indonesian Rupiah	8807.5	South Korean Won	1177.55
Chinese Yuan	6.3605	Japanese Yen	76.569	Swiss Franc	0.8989
Euro	0.7377	Malaysian Ringgit	3.188	Taiwan Dollar	30.5598
		New Zealand Dollar	1.3041	Thailand Baht	31.15

Nation

Could model airplanes become a terrorist weapon?

BOSTON (AP)—Model airplanes are suddenly on the public's radar as potential terrorist weapons. A 26-year-old man from a Boston suburb was arrested Wednesday and accused of plotting to attack the Pentagon and the U.S. Capitol with remote-controlled model planes packed with explosives.

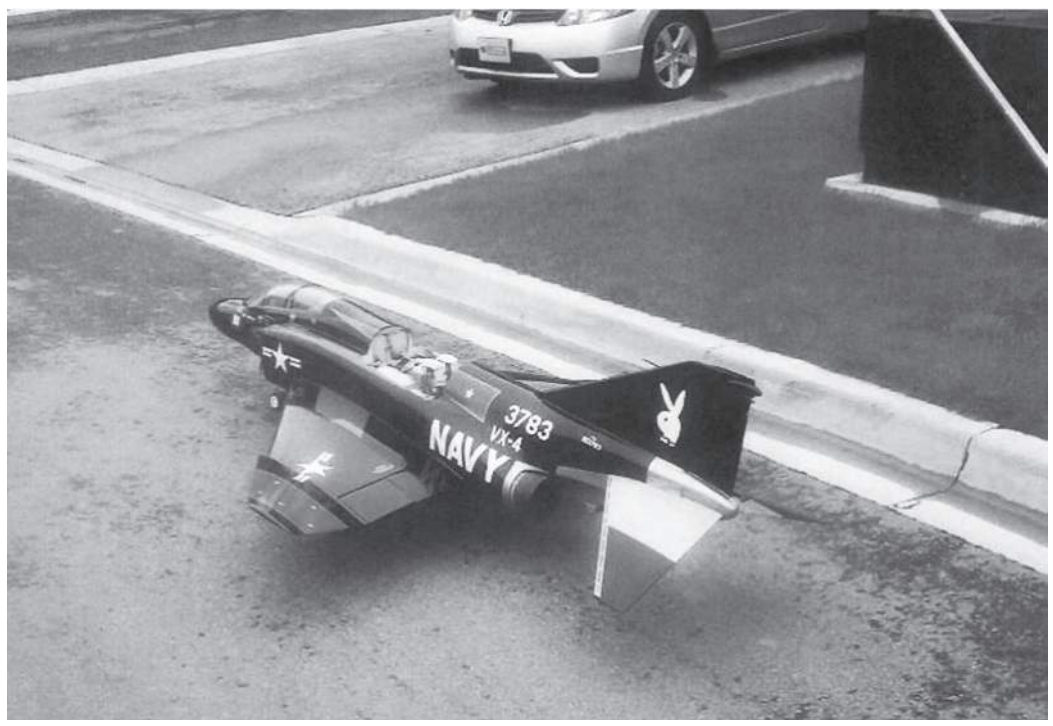
These are not balsa-wood-and-rubber-band toys investigators are talking about. The FBI said Rezwan Ferdaus hoped to use military-jet replicas, 5 to 7 1/2 feet long, guided by GPS devices and capable of speeds over 100 mph.

Federal officials have long been aware of the possibility someone might try to use such planes as weapons, but there are no restrictions on their purchase—Ferdaus is said to have bought his over the Internet.

Counterterrorism experts and model-aircraft hobbyists said it would be nearly impossible to inflict large-scale damage of the sort Ferdaus allegedly envisioned using model planes. The aircraft are too small, can't carry enough explosives and are too tricky to fly, they said.

"The idea of pushing a button and this thing diving into the Pentagon is kind of a joke, actually," said Greg Hahn, technical director of the Academy of Model Aeronautics.

Rick Nelson, a former Navy helicopter pilot who is now a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said Ferdaus would have had to hit a window or other vulnerable area to maximize damage, and that would have taken precision flying.



AP

This undated photo released Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2011 by the U.S. Department of Justice shows a large remote controlled aircraft similar to what the department said suspect Rezwan Ferdaus plotted to fill with C-4 plastic explosives to use in an attack of the Pentagon and U.S. Capital.

"Flying a remote-controlled plane isn't as easy as it actually looks, and then to put an explosive on it and have that explosive detonate at the time and place that you want it add to the difficulty of actually doing it," he said.

Ferdaus, a Muslim American from Ashland, was arrested after federal agents posing as al-Qaida members delivered what he believed was 24 pounds of C-4 explosive, authorities said. He was charged with attempting to damage or destroy a federal building with explosives. A federal affidavit claims he began planning "jihad" against the U.S. in early 2010 after becoming convinced through jihadi websites and videos that America was evil.

Ferdaus had a physics degree from Northeastern University and enjoyed "taking stuff apart" and "learning on my own," according to court papers.

The model planes Ferdaus eyed were the F-4 Phantom and the F-86 Sabre, small-scale versions of military jets, investigators said. The F-4 is the more expensive of the two, at up to $20,000, Hahn said. The F-86, one of which Ferdaus actually obtained, costs $6,000 to $10,000 new.

Ferdaus' plan, as alleged in court papers, was to launch three such planes from a park near the Pentagon and Capitol and use GPS to direct them toward the buildings, where they would detonate on impact and blow the Capitol dome to "smithereens." He planned to pack five pounds of plastic explosives on each plane, according to prosecutors.

James Crippin, an explosives and anti-terrorism expert, said that much C-4 could do serious damage—a half-pound will obliterate a car. But he said getting a stable explosive like C-4 to blow up at the right time would have been hugely difficult.

And there were slim prospects of causing any serious damage to buildings like the Pentagon and Capitol, which are undoubtedly hardened to withstand explosions, according to Crippin, director of the Western Forensic Law Enforcement Training Center.

"Basically, I think he's suffering from delusions of grandeur," he said.

Hahn said the heavier of the two models Ferdaus was allegedly planning to use could carry a maximum of two pounds of plastic explosive before malfunctioning. That's not including the weight of any GPS system, he added.

"It's almost impossible for him to get this done," he said.

Remote-controlled aircraft have been considered by terrorists before. In 2008, Christopher Paul of Worthington, Ohio, a Columbus suburb, pleaded guilty to plotting terrorist attacks in the U.S. and Europe using explosive devices. Prosecutors said he researched remote-controlled boats and a remote-controlled 5-foot-long helicopter.

And after Sept. 11, federal agents asked the Academy of Model Aeronautics' 143,000 members to watch for any fellow enthusiasts who might be buying planes with bad intentions.

Well before the Massachusetts arrest, police in Montgomery County, Md., put out a terrorist warning to hobby shops to be aware of customers "who don't appear to be hobbyists" buying model airplanes with cash and asking how they can be modified to carry a device.

The Federal Aviation Administration is devising new rules for model airplanes and other unmanned aircraft, but the restrictions are aimed primarily at preventing collisions. Under current FAA rules, such planes are generally limited to flying below 400 feet and away from airports and air traffic.

Massachusetts prosecutor Gerry Leone, who handled the prosecution of would-be shoe bomber Richard Reid, said terrorists are always building bombs out of common, legitimate items, and imposing restrictions on buying model aircraft would not make sense simply because of this one case.

But he said law enforcement might want be more vigilant about such purchases.

Census: Hispanics fuel US white population growth

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a twist to notions of race identity, new 2010 census figures show an unexpected reason behind a renewed growth in the U.S. white population: more Hispanics listing themselves as white in the once-a-decade government count.

The shift is due to recent census changes that emphasize "Hispanic" as an ethnicity, not a race. While the U.S. government first made this distinction in 1980, many Latinos continued to use the "some other race" box to establish a Hispanic identity. In a switch, the 2010 census forms specifically instructed Latinos that Hispanic origins are not races and to select a recognized category such as white or black.

The result: a 6 percent increase in white Americans as tallied by the census, even though there was little change among non-Hispanic whites. In all, the number of people in the "white alone" category jumped by 12.1 million over the last decade to 223.6 million. Based on that definition, whites now represent 72 percent of the U.S. population and account for nearly half of the total population increase since 2000.

Broken down by state, California and Texas were home to nearly half of Hispanics who identified as white, followed by Florida and New York. Together, these four states comprised nearly two-thirds of the "white alone" population who were Hispanic. Overall, Hialeah, Fla.; Fargo, N.D.; Arvada, Colo.; Billings, Mont., and Scottsdale, Ariz., posted the highest shares in the "white alone" category, at roughly 90 percent or more.

"The white population has become more diverse as evidenced by the growth of the Hispanic white population and the multiple-race white population," including black-white and white-Asian people, according to the 2010 census analysis released Thursday.

Some demographers say the broadened white category in 2010 could lead to a notable semantic if not cultural shift in defining race and ethnicity. Due to the impact of Hispanics, the nation's fastest-growing group, the Census Bureau has previously estimated that whites will become the minority in the U.S. by midcentury. That is based on a definition of whites as non-Hispanic, who are now at 196.8 million.

That could change, if the common conception of white were to shift.

"What's white in America in 1910, 2010 or even 2011 simply isn't the same," said Robert Lang, sociology professor at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, citing the many different groups of European immigrants in the early 20th century who later became known collectively as white. He notes today that could mean a white Anglo-Saxon Protestant in upstate New York or Jews and Italians in the lowest East side of Manhattan.

US: Cyber attacks on utilities, industries rise

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho (AP)—U.S. utilities and other crucial industries face an increasing number of cyber break-ins by attackers using more sophisticated methods, a senior Homeland Security Department official told reporters during the first tour of the government's secretive defense labs intended to protect the nation's power grid, water and communications systems.

Acting DHS Deputy Undersecretary Greg Schaffer told reporters Thursday at one of several nondescript buildings that house Control System Security Program facilities that the world's utilities and industries increasingly are becoming vulnerable as they wire their industrial machinery to the Internet.

"We are connecting equipment that has never been connected before to these global networks," Schaffer said. Disgruntled employees, hackers and perhaps foreign governments "are knocking on the doors of these systems and there have been intrusions."

According to the department, the number of private organizations asking for the department's help in protecting their automated control systems rose from 57 last year to 81 so far this year.

The number of times that the department's Computer Emergency Response Team for industrial systems has deployed rose from one in 2009 to six in 2010. So far this year, the team has responded to seven reported instances of attacks or vulnerabilities in control systems.

Department officials declined to give details about emergency response team deployments, citing confidentiality agreements with the companies involved. Under current law, the reporting of cyber attacks by private organizations is strictly voluntary.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: NY woman said man paid her to kill him

HERKIMER, N.Y. (AP)—A New York woman is accused of running over a bound man who she said promised her $180,000 if she ended his life, but police said they have no evidence he wanted to die. Francis Nelson, 74, was found dead, his hands and feet still tied, near his abandoned car on a rural road in upstate Herkimer County on Tuesday morning. On Thursday, Jennifer Riesel, a 28-year-old woman who met Nelson through a social club in their hometown of Little Falls, was charged with his murder. Trooper Jack Keller said Riesel told investigators that Nelson had asked her to kill him, saying she'd get $180,000 after his death.

Oregon couple found guilty in faith-healing trial

OREGON CITY, Ore. (AP)—A couple who prayed and rubbed olive oil on their sick infant rather than seek medical care for the dying boy was convicted Thursday of manslaughter, becoming the latest members of an Oregon faith-healing church to be blamed in their child's death. Dale and Shannon Hickman, both 26, are members of the Followers of Christ Church, which has a history of rejecting medical care for congregants' children and relying instead on techniques such as prayer and anointing the sick with oils. Five other church members have been convicted in Clackamas County for crimes related to the rejection of medical care for their children, said Greg Horner, chief deputy district attorney.

NASA IDs 90 pct. of largest near-Earth asteroids

LOS ANGELES (AP)—If you're worried about a killer asteroid wiping out Earth, NASA has some good news. The space agency said Thursday it has identified more than 90 percent of giant near-Earth asteroids, including ones as big as the one thought to have killed the dinosaurs eons ago. None poses a danger to the planet in the next several centuries. "We know now where most of them are and where most of them are going. That really has reduced our risk" of an impact, said Amy Mainzer of the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Asia

Hope for 18 on downed Indo plane as wreck found

MEDAN, Indonesia (AP)—Rescuers trying to reach a plane that crashed in the mountains of western Indonesia said Friday there still may be survivors, after spotting the wreckage intact with one of its doors opened.

Eighteen people were onboard the Spanish-designed CASA C-212 when it lost contact with air traffic control halfway through its 30-minute flight between North Sumatra and Aceh provinces early Thursday.

Minutes later, the turboprop-powered aircraft sent out a distress signal and then dropped off the radar.

Rescuers have so far been unable to reach the crash site near the mountainous village of Bahorok because of rugged terrain and torrential rains.

Wreckage of the aircraft—spotted during an aerial survey on Thursday and again on Friday—appeared to be largely intact, wings still fused to the body, said Robur Rizallianto, a safety manager with the airline, PT Nusantara Buana Air.

"One of its doors is open," he said.

There were no signs of the 14 passengers—four of them children—and four crew members. But it provided rescuers with some hope that there are survivors inside.

It's also possible the door opened on impact, said Sunarbowo Sandi, head of the local search and rescue team.

The aircraft, made in Indonesia in 1989, was last inspected on Sept. 22, said Rizallianto. It was in good condition, he said, and a check ahead of takeoff Thursday also came up clean.

Indonesia, a sprawling archipelagic nation of 240 million people, has been plagued by transportation accidents in recent years, from plane and train crashes to ferry sinkings. Many are blamed on overcrowding and poor safety standards.

AP

In this photo released by Indonesia Air Force's Elite Force. the wreckage of a Spanish-desinged aircraft CASA C-212 is seen in Bahorok, North Sumatra, Friday, Sept. 30, 2011.

ASIA BRIEFS

China denies int'l baby trafficking reports

BEIJING (AP)—Officials in south China's Hunan province have dismissed claims that more than a dozen babies were seized from parents who violated the country's one-child policy and sold to orphanages who arranged to have them adopted overseas. A four-month investigation into the allegations, first reported in May by the Beijing-based Caixin Century magazine, found no evidence of baby trafficking in Hunan's Shaoyang city, said an official from the Hunan press office in the provincial capital of Changsha who would give only his surname, Zuo.

28 bodies bring India's monsoon flood toll to 335

PATNA, India (AP)—Authorities stepped up efforts Thursday to deliver food and evacuate villagers stranded by monsoon flooding in eastern India, as searchers reported finding 28 more bodies, bringing the country's seasonal death toll to 335. With relentless rains finally easing, air force helicopters dropped food parcels, and hundreds of boats tried to reach nearly 100,000 people marooned in more than 1,300 villages in the eastern state of Orissa, said Prabitta Mohapatra, special relief commissioner. The boats have evacuated more than 120,000 people, and are continuing to bring people to safer ground, including people stranded on rooftops, Mohapatra told The Associated Press.

Indian court convicts 17 officials in gang rapes

NEW DELHI (AP)—An Indian court found 17 police and forest officials guilty on Thursday of raping a group of lower-caste women during a search of their village 19 years ago, a report said. The court also ruled that about 100 other officials had brutally beaten dozens of impoverished people in the village known as dalits, who are at the bottom of India's caste system, the Press Trust of India news agency said. Officials raided Vachathi village in southern Tamil Nadu state in 1992 to search for smuggled sandalwood. The region is 1,100 miles (1,760 kilometers) south of New Delhi.

US on Pakistan: Good cop, bad cop, or confused cop

ISLAMABAD (AP)—There are two ways to explain why the Obama administration is distancing itself from harsh criticism of Pakistan by America's top military officer—that the U.S. is playing "good cop/bad cop," or that policymaking toward a key ally is in disarray.

If the U.S. did intend to raise the heat on the Pakistani government over its alleged support for Afghan militants and then gently back off that position, it's unclear what the strategy has accomplished—other than further straining the already troubled relationship between the two countries.

Pakistani officials were outraged last week when Adm. Mike Mullen, the outgoing chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told Congress that the Pakistani military's spy agency supported militants from the Haqqani network who attacked the U.S. Embassy in Afghanistan on Sept. 13 and carried out a truck bombing days earlier that wounded 77 American soldiers.

They were the most serious allegations levied at Pakistan since the beginning of the Afghan war and carried special weight because they came from Mullen, considered one of the Pakistani military's closest friends in the U.S. administration.

Mullen said the Haqqani network "acts as a veritable arm" of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency, or ISI. The network is based in Pakistan's rugged North Waziristan tribal area along the Afghan border and is considered the most dangerous threat to American troops in Afghanistan.

Faced with Pakistan's vehement denials, the White House, Pentagon and State Department carefully refused to endorse Mullen's comments Wednesday.

At the White House, press secretary Jay Carney said Mullen's statement was "not language I would use."

But Carney and other officials said Pakistan must do more to tackle the Haqqani network.

Mullen has stuck to his guns since his congressional testimony. When asked by National Public Radio on Wednesday whether he would change anything he said last week, Mullen said, "Not a word. I phrased it the way I wanted it to be phrased."

He claimed the ISI provides the Haqqani network with funding, logistical support and a safe haven.

U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, who testified alongside Mullen in Congress, could also be seen as a member of the "bad cop" team. After the embassy attack, he issued what was construed in Pakistan as a veiled warning that Washington may take unilateral action against the Haqqani network unless the Pakistani government moved against the militants.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and the U.S. ambassador in Pakistan, Cameron Munter, could be seen as the "good cops."

"I have no argument with anyone who says this is a very difficult and complex relationship because it is," Clinton told reporters at the State Department on Wednesday. "But I also believe strongly that we have to work together despite the difficulties."

Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Reza Gilani also indicated Thursday that his government was committed to working with the U.S. But he made it clear that no military action against the Haqqani network was in the cards.

"Pakistan cannot be pressured to do more," Gilani told political and military leaders meeting to formulate a response to Mullen's allegations.

A "good cop/bad cop" routine could aim at extracting concessions from Pakistan that fall short of launching an operation against the Haqqanis.

Using the military man Mullen—on his way out of his post—to make the accusation would enable the State Department and White House to deliver the message they wanted to Islamabad, while standing at a distance.

Clinton and others could position themselves as standing between Pakistan and officials in the administration and Congress who are threatening extreme steps, such as unilateral strikes or cutting off the billions of dollars in funding Pakistan receives from the U.S. every year. They could argue that Pakistan needs to throw them a bone to head off these threats.

The "good cop/bad cop" routine also gives Washington a way to test out how strongly it can push Islamabad without prompting a backlash, something U.S. officials seem divided on.

The Americans are well aware that the Pakistani government faces profound anti-U.S. sentiment among the public. They also know the Pakistanis have ways to retaliate if they are feeling too much heat from Washington. Most notably, they could shut off a crucial landline: NATO ships a large percentage of the supplies for its troops in Afghanistan through the country. The U.S also wants Pakistan to play a role in reconciliation in Afghanistan—one reason that Clinton has been reluctant to list the Haqqani network as a foreign terrorist organization, apparently concerned the step would burn too many bridges.

Daniel Markey, a Pakistan expert at the Council on Foreign Relations, said the back-and-forth over Mullen's comments seems to reflect internal disagreements over how to deal with Pakistan's alleged links to the Haqqani network.

"The fact that there seems to be both confusion, disarray and some deeper division within the government is troubling," said Markey in a conference call with reporters on Wednesday.

Typhoon moves to Vietnam after hitting China

HONG KONG (AP)—A powerful typhoon that forced hundreds of thousands of people from their homes on an island in southern China appeared to have caused little damage Friday and was sweeping away from the country toward Vietnam.

Typhoon Nesat was expected to make landfall in Vietnam late Friday or early Saturday, after flooding streets on China's Hainan island on Thursday. Hainan authorities had plenty of time to prepare for the storm as it churned across the South China Sea from the Philippines, where it killed at least 43 people and left 30 missing earlier in the week.

Authorities evacuated 300,000 people, canceled flights, closed schools, suspended ferry services and recalled fishing boats as the storm approached, and the preparations appeared to have paid off with little damage reported on the island.

That was also the case in Hong Kong, which wasn't directly hit by the storm but saw wild weather Thursday as the system passed offshore.

In the Philippines, more than 160,000 people were still in evacuation centers Friday, three days after Nesat tore a path across the country's main island and triggered some of the worst flooding in the capital in decades.

Even as the weather improved with some sunshine, more misery hit residents of Bulacan province just north of Manila when three dams released excess water, flooding farmland and sending residents in towns downstream wading through neck-deep waters.

Bulacan Gov. Willy Alvarado said he called dam administrators to temporarily stop the release of water, which he said unleashed flooding on "unprecedented" levels.

Army and police rescuers distributed food and other relief goods to those stranded on rooftops in Calumpit and Hagonoy townships in Bulacan.

Preparations were also under way as a new typhoon headed toward the northern Philippines. It was expected to hit over the weekend.

Overall, damage from Typhoon Nesat was estimated at $91 million in the Philippines. No estimates have been given yet for damage to Hainan.

World

Tripoli residents want revolutionaries out

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—More than a month since revolutionary forces seized the Libyan capital, the heavy thud of anti-aircraft guns and the crackle of automatic weapon fire still echoes across the city, and bands of young fighters in pickup trucks bristling with heavy weapons cruise the streets.

Revolutionary brigades from across the country swept into Tripoli late last month in a stunning offensive, effectively ending Moammar Gadhafi's nearly 42-year rule and sending the longtime dictator into hiding. While Tripoli's residents are still reveling in their newfound freedoms, they are also beginning to grow weary of the continued presence of hundreds of armed fighters in the city.

The growing anger spurred locals to set up the Tripoli Support Group, which is now petitioning Libya's new rulers, known as the National Transitional Council, to get a handle on the revolutionary brigades in the city.

"We have witnessed negative behavior from the revolutionaries in Tripoli, and the NTC has fallen short because it hasn't given the local council any authority or support to rein in the revolutionaries," said Mohammed Shabbu, a businessman who helped set up the Tripoli Support Group.

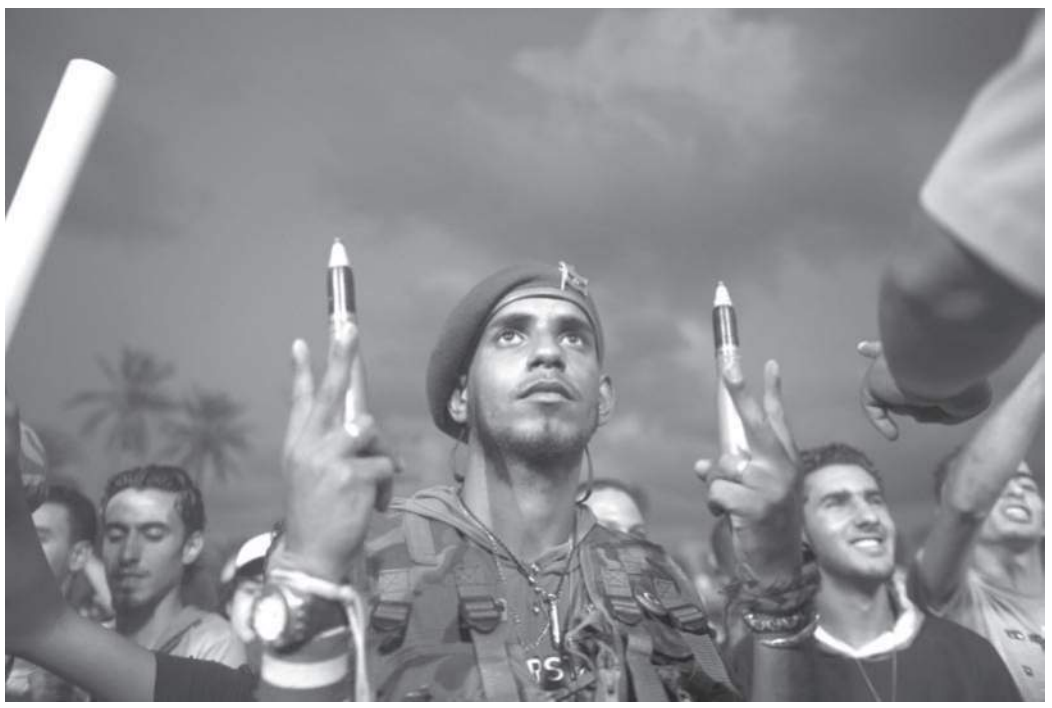
Shabbu is drafting a letter to the NTC calling on it to order all outside revolutionary brigades to leave Tripoli. He warned that their long-term stay has sapped some of the support residents feel for them.

"Sometimes you ask a young child, 'Do you like the revolutionaries?' The child will answer, 'No, they scare me,'" he said.

The Tripoli Support Group was founded by Sadeg Zaroug, a 63-year old architect. He said the group boasts more than 100 members and aims to act as a watchdog over the NTC and the local council.

"We want to observe the excesses of the NTC and local councils," Zaroug said.

Revolutionary fighters from across the country flooded Tripoli during the capital's fall, rolling in from Misrata, Benghazi and Zintan in their spray-painted, pockmarked pickup trucks outfitted with anti-aircraft guns.



AP

A revolutionary fighter holds ammunition as he poses for photos at Tripoli's main square, Libya, Thursday, Sept. 29, 2011.

Syrian regime supporters pelt US envoy with eggs

BEIRUT (AP)—Angry supporters of President Bashar Assad's regime hurled tomatoes and eggs at the U.S. ambassador to Syria on Thursday as he entered the office of a leading opposition figure and then tried to break into the building, trapping him inside for three hours.

The Obama administration blamed the Syrian government for the attack in Damascus, saying it was part of an ongoing, orchestrated campaign to intimidate American diplomats in the country. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton condemned the attack as "wholly unjustified."

Ambassador Robert Ford, an outspoken critic of Assad's crackdown on the 6-month-old revolt against the regime, has angered Syrian authorities before by showing support for the uprising. The latest incident promises to raise tensions even further.

Ford came under attack by about 100 Assad supporters as he arrived for the meeting with Hassan Abdul-Azim, who heads the outlawed Arab Socialist Democratic Union party. Abdul-Azim is a strong critic of Assad's regime and was briefly detained by authorities earlier this year.

Such incidents are usually not spontaneous in Syria, and Thursday's attack came amid high tension between the two nations, as well as accusations by Damascus that Washington is inciting violence in the country.

The protesters were ready with eggs and tomatoes when the delegation arrived and threw them at the Americans as they entered the building.

In Washington, the State Department said a rowdy, violent mob tried to attack Ford and several American embassy workers in Damascus. Spokesman Mark Toner said Ford and his colleagues were unharmed and are now safe.

However, several heavily armored embassy vehicles sent to help extricate them from the situation were badly damaged with broken windows and dents when the same crowd hurled rocks, White House and State Department officials said.

"This inexcusable assault is clearly part of ongoing campaign of intimidation aimed at diplomats ... who are raising questions about what is going on inside Syria," Clinton said. "It reflects an intolerance on the part of the regime and its supporters."

White House spokesman Jay Carney called the attack "unwarranted and unjustifiable," but said the U.S. had no plans to recall Ford from Damascus.

Trying to keep a low profile, Ford and his colleagues had parked about a block away from Abdul-Azim's office and walked to the building, where they were confronted by the crowd, according to Toner.

Abdul-Azim said Ford was inside his office when the Assad supporters tried to force their way in, breaking some door locks. Office staff prevented them from rushing in, but the ambassador was trapped inside for about three hours. Ford called the U.S. Embassy for help and alerted Syrian authorities to the situation, but Syrian security forces did not show up for more than an hour.

Syria's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that as soon as it was contacted by the U.S. Embassy regarding Ford, it called in security authorities, who "took all measures needed to protect the ambassador and his team and secured their return to their work in accordance with Syria's international commitments."

Saudis hold their last all-male election

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)—Saudi Arabia held its second nationwide vote ever on Thursday, a male-only election for powerless municipal councils. The balloting comes just days after the king decreed that women will be able to participate for the first time in the next local elections in 2015, a measure likely aimed at heading off Arab Spring-style dissent in the kingdom.

The election and Sunday's decree to give women the vote are two examples of the baby steps King Abdullah has been taking to reform and modernize his oil-rich nation since he ascended the throne in 2005. Though small, they are significant by the standards of his ultraconservative country— home to Islam's holiest shrines and vastly influenced by the clerical establishment.

Still the reforms signal the ruling family is not ready for deep change, even as popular uprisings are transforming the face of an Arab world long accustomed to absolute monarchs— like the Saudi king— dictators and fraudulently elected leaders.

"They are glacial changes," Salman Shaikh, director of the Brookings Center in Doha, Qatar, said of the recent decree on women. "But King Abdullah is the only man who can push change. Unfortunately, it has been too slow."

The Saudi kingdom is nowhere close to any of its Arab neighbors, not even those in the conservative Gulf region, when it comes to basic rights, freedoms and gender equality. The king rules with absolute power and shows zero tolerance for political dissent.

The ruling Al-Saud family has a near monopoly on top government posts and does not answer to anyone outside the family. Women are barred from driving and they cannot be members of the Cabinet. They cannot travel either, be admitted to hospital or take a job without permission from a male guardian.

On Thursday, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the king's announcement giving women the right to vote. U.N. spokesman Martin Nesirky said in a statement that Ban "believes that these represent an important step in the realization by women in Saudi Arabia of their fundamental civil and political rights."

If giving women the right to vote was hailed as a courageous step by the king, some saw it as almost purely symbolic.

"It was a bold and unexpected move," said blogger Eman al-Nafjan. "It is a start, but what we really need are reforms that improve women's lot in their everyday life."

Official turnout figures were not available for Thursday's vote. But Saudi media and activists said it was a small slice of the 1.2 million registered voters, a possible reflection of the insignificance Saudis attach to the toothless local councils that operate in the shadow of provincial governments led by powerful members of the ruling Al-Saud family.

Women's suffrage

Saudi Arabian women will be able to vote for the first time in the 2015 elections. When other predominately Muslim countries gave women the right to vote:

1919	Azerbaijan Dem. Rep.
1920	Albania
1921	Azerbaijan
1924	Kazakhstan,* Tajikistan
1927	Turkmenistan
1930	Turkey
1932	Maldives
1938	Uzbekistan
1945	Indonesia, Senegal
1946	Djibouti, Palestine
1947	Pakistan**
1948	Iraq, Israel, Niger
1929	Syria, Bosnia & Herz.
1952	Lebanon
1956	Comorros, Egypt, Mali, Mauritania, Somalia
1957	Malaysia
1959	Tunisia
1960	Gambia
1961	Sierra Leone
1962	Algeria
1963	Iran,*** Morocco
1964	Libya, Sudan
1965	Afghanistan
1970	Yemen
1972	Bangladesh
1973	Bahrain
1974	Jordan
1978	Nigeria
1999	Qatar
2003	Oman
2005	Kuwait
2006	United Arab Emirates
2011	Saudi Arabia

*Restricted; full rights in 1994
**National elections in 1956
***Restricted; full rights in 1980

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Source: About.com. freedomhouse.org
Graphic: Pat Carr

WORLD BRIEFS

Argentina holds up book imports to help industry

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Argentina's booksellers are accusing the government of censorship, saying more than a million imported books have stacked up in customs as authorities try to rebuild the country's printing houses. The dispute is about commerce, not ideology, and publishing houses are only the latest sector of the economy to experience the strong-arm tactics of a government determined to rebuild domestic industrial capacity. President Cristina Fernandez didn't directly address the customs controversy Thursday night when she inaugurated the new Museum of the Book and the Language. But she said her government is dedicated to restoring Argentina's ability to take care of itself in an uncertain world.

After cancer treatment, Chavez playing ball again

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez tossed a softball overhand with gusto Thursday, said his latest medical checks have been stellar and ridiculed rumors that his health might have taken a turn for the worse. Chavez said he is bouncing back vigorously from chemotherapy and gaining weight more than three months after he had surgery to remove a cancerous tumor from his pelvic region. He declined to say what type of cancer he was diagnosed with. "You want me to tell you more? What for?" Chavez said when asked about the cancer at a news conference. "Go to the hospital and ask any person who has cancer: ... 'What is it that you have? And what type is it?' Isn't there something morbid in that?"

Defense: Amanda Knox 'crucified' in Italy's media

PERUGIA, Italy (AP)—An Italian defense lawyer argued Thursday that Amanda Knox is an innocent girl "crucified" in the media and wrongly convicted of killing her roommate, urging an appeals court not to be afraid to correct a mistake. Carlo Dalla Vedova told the court in his closing arguments that Knox has been the victim of a "tragic judicial case" and has spent more than 1,000 days behind bars as a result. The highly anticipated verdict in the appeals case is expected Monday. Knox was convicted of murdering Meredith Kercher, a British student in Perugia, and sentenced to 26 years in prison, while co-defendant Raffaele Sollecito was sentenced to 25 years. They deny wrongdoing and have appealed.

Young Style

NEW YORK (AP)—Most children love to collect things, and this year toy makers are banking on it.

Collectible toys and games top toy list

By MAE ANDERSON
AP RETAIL WRITER

Taking a cue from last year's toy hits, many of this year's holiday offerings are toy sets or figures that kids can collect. But unlike last year, when Squinkies figures or Cepia's toy hamster Zhu Zhu pets mostly were collect by girls, this year's collectible toys are targeting boys.

Among this year's collectibles are Hasbro's Beyblade Metal Fusion, a battling spinning top game for $5.99 to $39.99; Spin Master's Redakai, a trading card game, for $5.99 to $19.99; Cepia's DaGeDar collectible rolling balls for $4.99 to $19.99; and Lego's Ninjago construction sets for $3.49 to $119.99.

Jim Silver, an analyst at Time to Play Magazine, which offers an influential list of hot toys each year, says the wide price range of the collectible toys is important since many families are remaining cautious in their spending because of worries about the global economy. At the same time, he says, toy makers want to be able to offer more expensive toys to parents who can afford it

"Take Ninjago, they have $100 sets, but basic sets start at under $10," Silver said. "It's important affordable for all families."

Here's a complete look at the toys that made Time to Play Magazine's 2011 "Most Wanted" toy list, out Tuesday.

AP

In this photograph taken by AP Images for Time to Play, from left, Chris Byrne, Shannon Eis and Jim Silver of TimetoPlayMag.com show off a selection of toys from the Holiday 2011 Most Wanted list, the website's top 18 toys for this holiday season, at the Time to Play Holiday Showcase, Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2011, in New York.

- Cepia's DaGeDar, $4.99 to $19.99: Collectible decorated balls that come with track sets.
- Hasbro's Beyblade Metal Fusion, $5.99 to $39.99: A battling spinning top game.
- Hasbro's Nerf Vortex Line, $12.99 to $49.99: Foam dart guns.
- iStar Entertainment's FyrFlyz, $10: A yo-yo like toy that glows in the dark.
- Jakks Pacific's Spy Net Stealth Video Glasses, $39.99: Sunglasses that record video.
- LeapFrog's LeapPad Explorer, $99.99: A tablet for tots, with games, e-books and a camera.
- Lego's Alien Conquest and Ninjago Lines, $3.49 to $119.99: Popular construction sets with alien and ninja themes.
- Mattel's Angry Birds Knock on Wood Game, $16: A block game based on the popular smartphone app.
- Mattel's Fisher-Price Big Action Construction Site, $59.99: A construction site play set.
- Mattel's Hot Wheels Wall Tracks, $29.99: A car track set that can attach to walls.
- Mattel's Monster High Dead Tired Line, $14.49: Dolls that are the offspring of different monsters.
- Mega Brands 3D Breakthrough Puzzle, $19.99: 3D Jigsaw puzzles.
- MGA's Lalaloopsy Silly Hair Doll, $34.99: A rag-like doll with bendable hair.
- Spin Master's Logo Board Game, $24.99: A board game that tests player's knowledge of popular brands.
- Spin Master's Redakai, $5.99 to $19.99: A collectible trading-card game.
- Thinkway Toys' Lazer Stunt Chaser, $39.99: A remote-control car that follows a laser.
- Vtech's Innotab, $79.99: Another tablet device for kids that lets them, play games, color and read books.
- WowWee's Lite Sprites, $19.99: Dolls that light up different colors with the touch of a wand.

AP

In this Feb. 13, 2011 photograph taken by AP Images for LEGO, Minifigure spinners from the new LEGO Ninjago collection sit on display at the American International Toy Fair, in New York.

AP

This product image provided by Cepia LLC, shows the action-packed, supercharged battle balls, DaGeDar(TM).

Fly high in blimp

By KATHY ANTONIOTTI
AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

For those of us living in Akron, Ohio, the home of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. and where blimps are made, it isn't unusual to hear the familiar sound of one of them flying overhead.

Here, where the sight of a blimp in the sky is fairly common, we might be inclined to take the aviation marvel for granted. But if you live in a place where the only chance to get a view of the nonrigid airship is on television, as it provides sports coverage for a football game, seeing a blimp in flight is unusual and exciting. No matter where you live, a blimp, flying so close that you can wave to people in the gondola (an enclosed compartment that holds passengers and the crew) and see them wave back is still pretty exciting.

MCT

Paper plates wrapped with aluminum foil make a blimp craft project perfect for National Aviation Day.

Between 1928 and 2005, Goodyear named its blimps after the U.S. winners of the America's Cup, an international yacht race, because they look like yachts in the sky.

The Spirit of Akron, launched in 1987, was the only airship to deviate from that practice.

National Aviation Day, established in 1939 by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, designates the anniversary of Orville Wright's birthday, Aug. 19, as a holiday that celebrates the history and development of aviation. Wright, along with his brother Wilbur, made significant contributions to flight.

To celebrate the holiday, I made a replica of a blimp for you to create. I found the idea for the craft at http://www.highlightskids.com/Express/Crafts/Decorations/C0402_paperplateBlimp.asp. I changed the directions for our use.

You will need:

2 Chinet paper plates, platter-shaped.
Aluminum foil.
Decorative paper.
1 piece dark construction paper.
Large empty gelatin box.
Tacky glue.
Scissors.
Clothespins or rubber bands.
Black marker.

Trim the long sides of one of the paper plates to make it look like a football. Lay it upside down onto the underside of the second plate and trace the new shape onto it. Cut the second plate to match the first.

Cover each plate with aluminum foil, wrapping the foil over to the topside of the plate.

Using the photo as a guide, draw two fin shapes for the top and bottom of the back of the blimp.

Glue the two plates together front to front and sandwich the fins in between. Hold the plates together with clothespins or rubber bands until glue dries.

To make the gondola, cut the empty gelatin box in half and cover with decorative paper. Cut a V shape from each side so you can slide the box up into the bottom edge of the blimp. Glue to hold.

Use the marker to draw windows on the sides of the gondola, and write a message on a piece of construction paper and glue to the side of the blimp.

THIS YEAR'S APPLE FESTIVAL IS UNDER WAY! Try counting all of the apples in the picture before the apple-dunking contest begins.

Answer: We counted 58. How about you?

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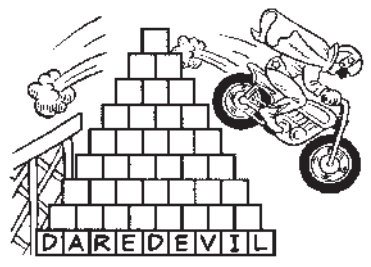
Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

THE PYRAMID OF WORD POWER



Illustrated by David Coulson

See if you can "leap" to the top of our word pyramid in less than three minutes. Starting with the given word DAREDEVIL, try dropping one letter at a time as you work your way up, so that the remaining letters at each level spell out a new word. The following helpful hints are in ascending order, beginning with DAREDEVIL.

1. A reckless person.
2. What the baby did.
3. A Hanukkah toy.
4. A Junior Whirl stumper.
5. Was made angry.
6. Desperately urgent.
7. Anger; wrath.
8. In reference to
9. A direction (abbr.)

Answers (From the bottom up): Daredevil, driveled, dreidel, riddle, riled, dire, ire, re, E.

FIG. 1

DOODLE PICS! The two pictures shown here are graphic presentations of familiar words, phrases or names. You have one minute to identify both.

FIG. 2

Answers: 1. Fruit flies. 2. Downtown.

IT'S OXYMORON TIME! Below are two puzzle grids to fill in. Hints are given for each word. The words in Grid A use the same letters as the corresponding words in Grid B.

1. Found just under water.
2. Bill of a bird.
3. To disclose with permission.
4. To restore to soundness.

GRID A

R			
	E		
		A	
			L

GRID B

F			
	A		
		K	
			E

1. Being at liberty.
2. A way to cook.
3. A body of water.
4. Free from illness.

Answers: 1. Reef-free. 2. Beak-bake. 3. Leak-lake. 4. Heal-hale.

Puppy isn't growing

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: We adopted a beautiful, fluffy pup at a nearby shelter. A worker there described it as a Russian sheepdog. She said "Curty" should grow up into a large dog with a lot of energy. So far, I haven't found this to be true. Curty hasn't grown much beyond his height when we adopted him, and he doesn't seem to have the energy I have seen in shepherd breeds, although he is pretty playful and was easy to housebreak. Are there any health problems he might have, or do we just have a mixed breed dog that isn't going to take on purebred characteristics?—Jerry C., Burlington, Vt.

DEAR JERRY: There are several types of sheepdogs hailing from Russia and surrounding regions, so it's hard to say exactly which breed you have. Indeed, you may have a mixed-breed dog, if the shelter wasn't able to provide any information on Curty's former home.

The best thing to do is take Curty to the veterinarian for a checkup. Explain that he isn't growing as fast as you thought he would and that he doesn't have a lot of energy. The vet can check for any signs of underlying health issues.

Curty could be a perfectly healthy pup, but just a mixed-breed dog who is developing normally and won't be very big. An even-tempered, playful, well-socialized, easy-to-train dog isn't a bad thing. But do make sure that he's healthy and that there are no hidden health problems.

■ ■ ■

Send your question or comment to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. For more pet care-related advice and information, visit www.pawscorner.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

■ It was 20th-century American novelist, poet and performer William S. Burroughs who made the following sage observation: "Most of the trouble in this world has been caused by folks who can't mind their own business, because they have no business of their own to mind, any more than a smallpox virus has."

■ The first traffic signal, which began operating in Cleveland in 1914, wasn't much of a labor-saver. To operate it, a police officer had to sit in a nearby booth where he could oversee the traffic.

■ Those who study such things claim that at any given moment, there are 850,000 people inside a Walmart store. And that's just in the United States —there's no telling how many people are shopping at Walmarts abroad.

■ California Tech conducted a study in which consumers were offered two samples of the same wine, but each sample was labeled at a different price point. Unaware that the wines they were drinking were identical, most participants said they preferred the more expensive sample.

■ If you're planning a trip to Turkey, be sure to book a stay at the Marmara Antalya on the country's southern coast. This unique hotel revolves, offering ever-changing views of the Mediterranean Sea to its guests.

■ Are you a phonophile? If so, you might be finding it hard to pursue your passion in this digital age—a phonophile (also known as a gramophile) is a collector of phonograph records.

■ Between 70 percent and 80 percent of all the Earth's fresh water is stored in glaciers, 99 percent of which are found in the Arctic and in Antarctica.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "You know you're getting old when you stoop to tie your shoelaces and wonder what else you could do while you're down there."—George Burns

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MAGIC MAZE ● ATLANTIC HURRICANE NAMES FOR 2011

W	M	I	E	A	W	T	P	L	I	E	B	X	U	Q
N	J	G	D	Z	W	T	Q	N	K	H	D	A	X	U
R	P	M	J	G	P	D	F	A	X	V	S	Q	N	K
Y	E	V	R	A	H	I	F	R	D	A	X	V	T	Q
O	M	J	H	I	I	F	Y	C	A	A	Y	W	U	R
P	N	L	J	R	L	L	H	D	F	N	D	B	Z	X
V	T	J	R	A	I	Q	E	O	N	M	K	K	I	H
F	D	B	O	M	P	Z	N	H	T	I	B	L	Y	D
W	V	T	E	S	P	R	E	Q	P	R	C	O	I	O
N	L	K	E	N	E	L	R	A	E	O	E	T	A	N
I	H	F	L	D	C	A	I	T	A	K	A	G	Z	X

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Arlene	Emily	Jose	Nate
Bret	Gert	Katia	Ophelia
Cindy	Harvey	Lee	Philippe
Don	Irene	Maria	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	+		×		17			
−		−		+				
	−		×		9			
×		×		+				
	÷		+		3			
10		20		6				

1 2 3 4 5 5 7 8 9

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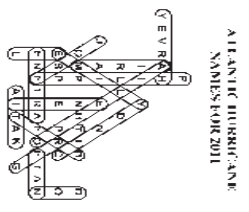
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



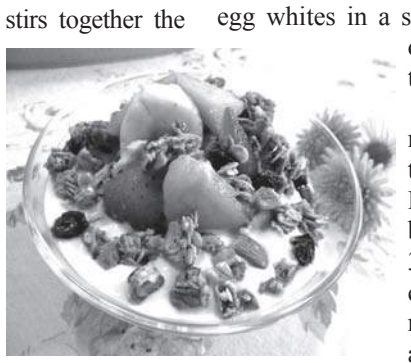
GO FIGURE ANSWER

	6		20		10			
3	2	+	5	÷	5			
	+		×		×			
9	3	×	4	−	7			
	+		−		−			
17	1	×	8	+	9			

'World's best granola' is kid-friendly recipe

Homemade granola is tasty to eat any time of day, but in our family it's a staple for fall breakfasts with nonfat plain yogurt and fresh fruit. Not only is granola a nutritious start to the day, with its wholesome blend of heart-healthy oats and chopped nuts, but a handful makes a satisfying after-school treat with a glass of milk, and a few spoonfuls add crunch to a scoop of ice cream for an evening dessert.

Granola is so easy to prepare that you and your kids can make this recipe in a jiffy—just under an hour. While one child measures and stirs together the dry ingredients in a big bowl, another can measure, pour and stir the liquids in another. Combine all of the ingredients in the big bowl, and voila! The just-sweet-enough mixture is ready for you to spread on a baking sheet and place in the oven.



Give it a try and see why the fresh taste of this homemade granola rivals any packaged mixture.

World's Best Granola

3 cups old-fashioned rolled oats (not quick-cooking)
1/2 cup brown sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup coarsely chopped almonds
1/2 cup coarsely chopped pecans
1/4 cup canola oil
1/2 teaspoon vanilla
2 egg whites, slightly beaten
1/2 cup raisins

Here's the fun:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F.

2. Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper, or spray with non-stick spray.

3. Combine the oats, brown sugar, cinnamon, baking powder, salt and nuts in a large mixing bowl.

4. Stir together the oil, vanilla and egg whites in a small bowl. Add to dry ingredients and toss well.

5. Spread the mixture evenly on the baking sheet. Bake until golden brown, about 25-30 minutes. Cool completely; stir in raisins and store in an airtight container. Makes about 5 cups.

Note: If you wish, substitute 1/4 cup pure maple syrup and 1/4 cup honey for the brown sugar, and combine with liquid ingredients before tossing with dry ingredients.

Creative tip: Let kids draw a label to tape or glue to the outside of a plastic storage container or glass jar. It might say "The Johnsons' World's Best Granola."

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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GoodHousekeeping

THE KITCHEN DIVA

Basting Basics

By ANGELA SHELF MEDEARIS
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Basting meats and vegetables with a marinade is one of the best ways to infuse a dish with flavor. What does "marinade" or "marinate" mean? A marinade is a seasoned liquid mixture that adds flavor and in some cases helps tenderize tough cuts of meat. Some marinades are homemade mixtures. Other times they are bottled dressings or sauces.

Marinate also means to steep the food in a marinade. If the meat is a tender cut, marinate it for a short time, no more than 30 minutes, or you'll have a mushy, soft entree! For tougher cuts of meat, marinade for 8 to 12 hours in the refrigerator.

Whenever you decide to use a marinade on meats, place it in a re-sealable bag on a plate in the refrigerator. If your recipe calls for basting the meat with a marinade as it cooks, reserve some of the marinade that has NOT been in contact with the raw meat to use as a basting sauce. Otherwise, you are contaminating cooked meat with raw meat juices -- a food-safety NO-NO. Never use the same basting brush on raw meat and cooked meat.

To prevent cross-contamination, try applying the marinade with a spray bottle or a bottle with a squirt top.

The same contamination can happen when the plate that held the raw meat is used for transporting the cooked meat. Also avoid using the fork or turner that touched the raw meat to turn or check the cooked meat. It's best to use a different kitchen utensil each time, or rinse it with warm soapy water between uses.

This recipe for Multi-Purpose Basting sauce is delicious on chicken, fish, pork, beef and vegetables. It's inexpensive to make and enhances the flavor of grilled meats and vegetables.

Multi-Purpose Basting Sauce

3/4 cup wine vinegar
3 tablespoons cooking oil
3 tablespoons finely chopped green peppers
1 tablespoon salt (optional)

PHOTO CREDIT: STOCK.XCHG PHOTO

1 can (6 ounce) frozen pineapple juice concentrate
1/2 cup dark brown sugar
1 1/2 teaspoons soy sauce (optional)

Combine all ingredients and simmer for 15 minutes or until mixture thickens slightly. Cool and seal any remaining marinade in an air-tight container, and refrigerate it for up to 2 weeks.

Before grilling, allow marinated meat to sit out at room temperature for 30 minutes. Cook the meat on medium coals or heat. Baste on each side the last 15 minutes of cooking. If you use this sauce as a marinade, turn the meat frequently to prevent burning, as the sugar content is high and browns (and burns) easily. Makes about 25 (4 1/2 ounce) portions.

Angela Shelf Medearis is known as The Kitchen Diva! She's the executive producer and host of The Kitchen Diva! *cooking show on Hulu.com. Her new inspirational book is* Ten Ingredients for a Joyous Life and a Peaceful Home—A Spiritual Memoir *and was co-written with Pastor Salem Robinson Jr. (www.dunnsmemorial.com) Visit her website at www.divapro.com.*

Toilet's antics drive wife mad

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: The toilet in our master bedroom, for no reason I can explain, will randomly start running for a few minutes and then stop again. Of course, it is accompanied each time by a faint hissing sound as the water flows into the tank and then a "clunk" when it stops. At night, this is incredibly annoying. My wife wants it fixed ASAP. Is this something that can be fixed quickly, or do I need to call a plumber?—Hoyt C., Vero Beach, Fla.

A: There's a good chance you can fix this yourself. What's happening is that water is silently trickling from the upper tank into the toilet bowl. When the water level of the tank drops to a certain point (below the range of the float ball or indicator), the inlet valve at the bottom of the tank opens up and the tank refills. Once the water level rises and returns the float ball or indicator to its top position, the valve closes and the water stops. Often you'll hear a "clunk" or chain rattle as this happens.

To verify a slow leak, mark the water level at its highest point (right after it finishes refilling from a flush) with a crayon, then close the inlet valve under the tank. Come back in a half hour to an hour to see if the water level has fallen.

Next, try to locate the cause of the leak. If there's no water on the floor (indicating bad seals or a cracked tank—a definite contact-the-plumber sign) then the flapper valve—the big valve in the center of the tank that dumps water into the bowl with each flush—is the likely culprit.

The problem could be as simple as a misaligned flapper valve. This is most commonly caused by a lift chain or lift arm that is too long or too short. (The lift chain or arm literally lifts the flapper valve up when you push the flush handle—try it now and see.) Adjust the chain by placing the connecting hook (the hook that attaches the chain to the upper lift arm) into a different rung of the chain. Adjust a vertical lift arm by either slightly bending or straightening the arm.

If the adjustment doesn't work, consider the age of the flush assembly. The seals may be breaking down, especially in a hard-water environment. Replacement assemblies can be purchased at your local home-improvement store (be sure to bring the toilet's brand and model number with you to get the correct fit).

HOME TIP: Increase the life of your toilet tank seals and flush assembly by avoiding the use of bleach-based, in-tank cleanser tablets.

Send your questions or comments to ask@thisisahammer.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

By JOANN DERSON
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

■ Plant deciduous trees (trees that lose their leaves in the fall) strategically in order to reduce your heating and cooling costs. Their leaves emerge in the spring to block summer's heating rays, but when winter comes, they fall off to let the sun in, warming things up a bit.

■ Keep nail-polish bottles easy to open by rubbing a little bit of petroleum jelly inside the cap of the bottle.

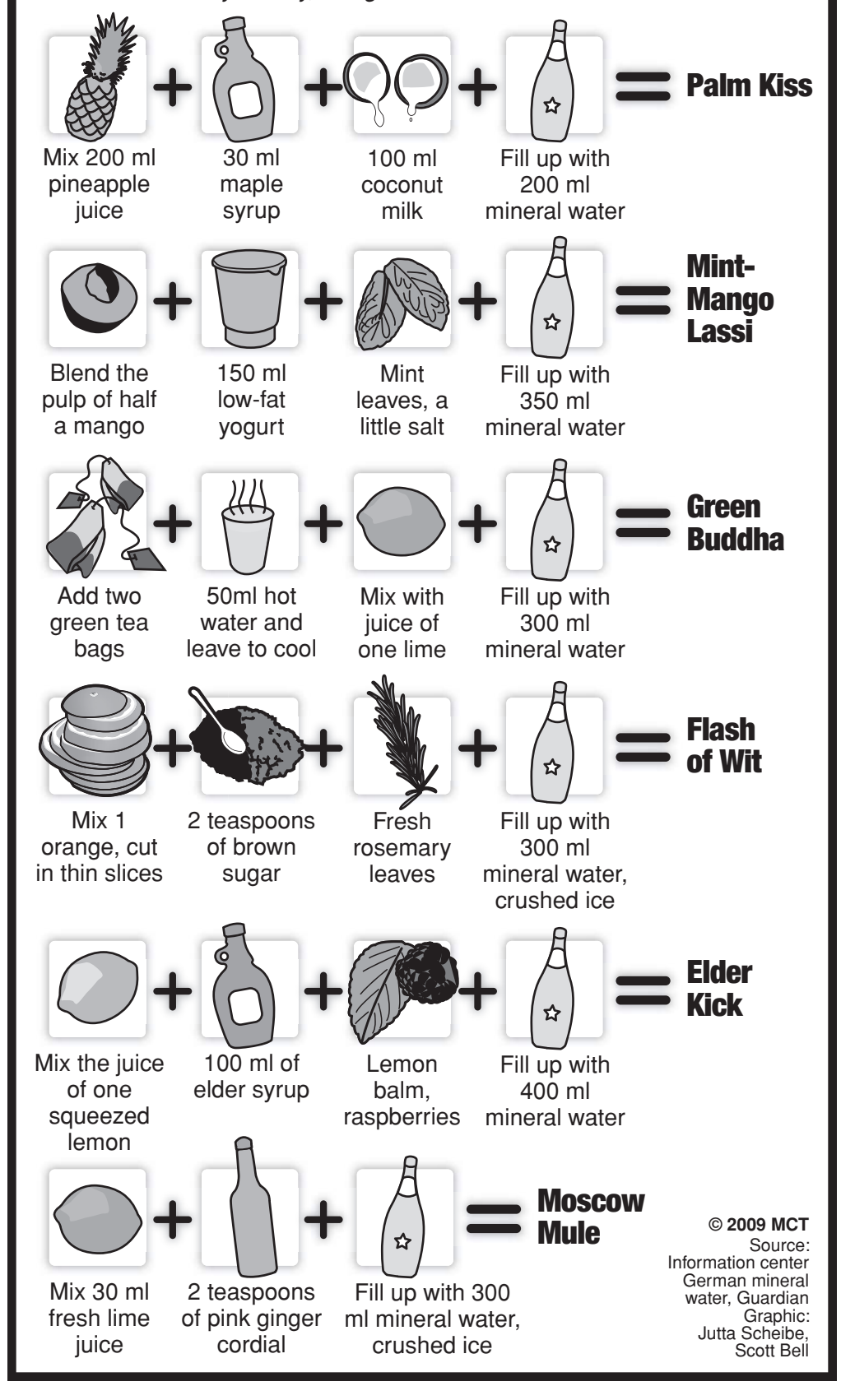
■ M.C. in Arizona would like to know some alternative uses for hair conditioner. Here goes: as a shaving lotion for legs or face; a makeup remover; ouch-free bandage removal; to soften makeup brushes or paintbrushes before storage; to get knots out of doll hair or costume wigs; washing delicates (think silks and pantyhose); rub on a shower rod to help curtain glide effortlessly; and lastly, soak a shrunken sweater in a conditioner/water solution to soften the fibers, then gently try stretching the sweater back to size.

■ "Clean an egg carton very well, then flip it over and make slits in each egg cup. This works wonders as a child's card holder for card games."—L.P. in Maryland

■ Use an empty paper towel roll to store plastic grocery bags. Just stuff to capacity. These "bag sticks" are easy to store in a drawer or even be mounted on the side of a trash can with double-stick tape.

■ When cleaning glass tabletops or chrome fixtures, try using newspaper instead of paper towels or rags. There is no lint left behind, and newspaper gives a better shine.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475 or e-mail JoAnn at heresatip@yahoo.com.


Light refreshing drinks
Drinks to freshen your day, using mineral water instead of alcohol:
Mix 200 ml pineapple juice
30 ml maple syrup
100 ml coconut milk
Fill up with 200 ml mineral water
Palm Kiss
Blend the pulp of half a mango
150 ml low-fat yogurt
Mint leaves, a little salt
Fill up with 350 ml mineral water
Mint-Mango Lassi
Add two green tea bags
50ml hot water and leave to cool
Mix with juice of one lime
Fill up with 300 ml mineral water
Green Buddha
Mix 1 orange, cut in thin slices
2 teaspoons of brown sugar
Fresh rosemary leaves
Fill up with 300 ml mineral water, crushed ice
Flash of Wit
Mix the juice of one squeezed lemon
100 ml of elder syrup
Lemon balm, raspberries
Fill up with 400 ml mineral water
Elder Kick
Mix 30 ml fresh lime juice
2 teaspoons of pink ginger cordial
Fill up with 300 ml mineral water, crushed ice
Moscow Mule
© 2009 MCT
Source: Information center German mineral water, Guardian
Graphic: Jutta Scheibe, Scott Bell

Life & Style

Music producer's take on Olympics: Grunts, thumps

LONDON (AP)—To music producer Mark Ronson, the Olympics resound with thwacks and grunts, screeches and thumps.

The three-time Grammy winner described Thursday how he has been working with Olympic hopefuls from five countries to create a soundtrack for the London 2012 Games—an anthem that fuses sounds from training with the beat of music.

Ronson, who worked with the late singer Amy Winehouse, recorded athletes as they trained, sometimes attaching microphones to legs, chests and arms. He also placed them on running tracks and archery targets—often getting sound not possible during the games because they would interfere with competition.

He recorded the bounce of a table tennis ball and the thwack of an arrow being released from an archer's bow.

Britain's Darius Knight, a 21-year-old table tennis player, hid his face behind his hands as Ronson told reporters that the athlete's "very unusual grunt" will be immortalized.

"Darius has this very unusual sound. It is great," Ronson said. "Sometimes he uses it to put off his opponents, and sometimes it is a sound of victory—to me it sounded like James Brown, so I knew I would use that."

Ronson attached a microphone to the chest of 24-year-old Kseniya Vdovina, a 400-meter runner from Russia, catching her heartbeat. He also wanted to record her panting as she doubled over, having given it her all.

"I knew the breath was going to be an important sound," he said. "The emotion I felt after hearing like that—I wanted to put that in a track."

AP

British music producer Mark Ronson, front right, and singer-songwriter Katy B, front left, back dropped by Olympic hopefuls posing for the photographers during the launch of a global campaign by London 2012 Olympic Games' major soft drinks sponsor, in East London, Thursday, Sept. 29, 2011. The athletes are from left to right, Darius Knight, 21, a British table tennis player, Kseniya Vdovina, 24, a 400 meter Russian sprinter, David Oliver, 29 a 110 meter U.S. hurdler and Dayyan Jaffar, 17, an archer from Singapore.

He loved the "eyyyaaahhh" screech of 23-year-old Mexican taekwondo star Maria Espinoza. He said he was enamored with "the screams and the grunts that she made when she was kicking the crap out of somebody."

Working closely with the athletes in their home countries gave him a sense of a deep responsibility to them, Ronson said.

"It makes you want to make it better," he said.

He recounted traveling to Singapore to meet with Dayyan Jaffar, an 18-year-old archer who dreams of representing his country during the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. Ronson promised him that he would give him a star moment—when all the music stops and you see the arrow fly from the bow. Only later did he worry that he had promised too much.

"Halfway through it, I'm panicking. I thought, 'What am I talking about? Why am I promising ... a full star moment? I don't know if it is going to work,'" he said. "But then I went back. I had this obligation to pull it out."

Jaffar, for his part, can't quite believe that Ronson figured out how to capture the sound of archery. He also can't believe his good fortune to have been included in the whole project and wants to ensure he does everything he can to make it perfect.

"I'm not only representing Singapore," he said. "I'm representing Asia."

Ronson said he also felt immense pressure on the project because it is different from creating an album in which a track or two can be discarded if deemed subpar.

"You have one shot, one song," he said. "It has to be great."

The song will provide the soundtrack for commercials, digital platforms and events during the games—part of sponsor Coca-Cola's global "Move to the Beat" campaign.

Ronson next travels to the U.S. to record his final athlete, 29-year-old David Oliver, a 110-meter hurdler from Denver.

Oliver said he's ready for this, and speculates that the way his spikes click when leaving the blocks might make a cool sound. But he has no clue what Ronson has in mind.

"That's the most interesting thing," Oliver said. "You really have no idea."

Guard: Jackson doc collected vials before 911 call

LOS ANGELES (AP)—One of Michael Jackson's bodyguards had barely stepped into the singer's bedroom when he heard a scream. "Daddy!" Jackson's young daughter cried.

A few feet away, the singer lay motionless in his bed, eyes slightly open. His personal doctor, Conrad Murray, was trying to revive him when he saw that Jackson's eldest children were watching.

"Don't let them see their dad like this," Murray said, the first of many orders that bodyguard Alberto Alvarez testified Thursday that he heeded in the moments before paramedics arrived at Jackson's home in June 2009.

What happened next—after Alvarez said he ushered Jackson's eldest son and daughter from the room—is one of the key pieces of prosecutors' involuntary manslaughter case against Murray.

According to Alvarez, Murray scooped up vials of medicine from Jackson's nightstand and told the bodyguard to put them away. "He said, 'Here, put these in a bag,'" Alvarez said.

Alvarez complied. He placed an IV bag into another bag, and then Murray told him to call 911, Alvarez said

On the third day of the trial, prosecutors tried to show that Murray, who has pleaded not guilty, delayed calling authorities and that he was intent on concealing signs that he had been giving the singer doses of the anesthetic propofol.

Alvarez said he thought Murray might be preparing to take the items to the hospital, but didn't question him.

The bags never made it to the hospital, and prosecutors claim Murray repeatedly lied to emergency personnel and did not tell them he had been giving Jackson doses of the drug as a sleep aid.

If convicted, Murray, 58, could face up to four years in prison and lose his medical license.

Defense attorney Ed Chernoff questioned whether there was enough time for Alvarez to shield Jackson's children, survey the room and stow away the drugs in the brief period that phone records show he was in the home before calling emergency responders.

AP

Deputy District. Attorney. David Walgren, holding a bag of sodium chloride, questions Alberto Alvarez, one of Michael Jackson's security guards, during Conrad Murray's involuntary manslaughter trial in downtown Los Angeles, Thursday, Sept. 29, 2011.

The bodyguard insisted there was, telling the attorney, "I'm very efficient, sir."

Chernoff was not convinced, questioning whether 30 seconds was enough time for the dramatic sequence to play out. Alvarez assured him it was.

The defense attorney also challenged Alvarez's recollection, asking whether the collection of the vials happened after paramedics had come and whisked Jackson to a nearby hospital. Alvarez denied it happened after he called 911.

Chernoff questioned why Alvarez didn't tell authorities about Murray's commands to bag up the medication immediately after Jackson died, but instead waited until two months after the singer's death. The bodyguard said he didn't realize its significance until seeing a news report in late June in which he recognized one of the bags detectives were carrying out of Jackson's mansion.

The burly Alvarez became emotional as the 911 call was played for jurors. Jackson's mother, Katherine, appeared distraught and her son, Randy, huddled next to her and put his arm around her. She did not attend the afternoon proceedings,

"Was that difficult to hear?" prosecutor David Walgren asked.

"It is," Alvarez replied.

After hanging up with dispatchers, Alvarez said he performed chest compressions on Jackson while Murray gave the singer mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. The doctor remarked it was his first time performing the procedure.

"'I have to,'" Alvarez recalled Murray telling him, "`because he's my friend.'"

Alvarez recalled seeing Murray at the hospital where Jackson was taken and sitting next to the emergency room.

"`I wanted him to make it,'" Alvarez quoted Murray as saying. "`I wanted him to make it.'"

Alvarez's testimony allowed Walgren to present jurors directly with a bottle of propofol that they've heard much about throughout the previous two days of the trial.

Jurors intently looked at the bottle, which appeared to still contain some liquid.

When he entered the bedroom, Alvarez said, he saw Jackson's eyes were open and was surprised to see the singer was wearing a condom catheter, a medical device that allows one to urinate without having to get up.

Winners of 2011 Ig Nobel Awards

The 2011 Ig Nobel winners, awarded Thursday at Harvard University by the Annals of Improbable Research magazine:

PHYSIOLOGY: Anna Wilkinson, Natalie Sebanz, Isabella Mandl and Ludwig Huber for their study "No Evidence of Contagious Yawning in the Red-Footed Tortoise."

CHEMISTRY: Makoto Imai, Naoki Urushihata, Hideki Tanemura, Yukinobu Tajima, Hideaki Goto, Koichiro Mizoguchi and Junichi Murakami for their wasabi alarm.

MEDICINE: Matthew Lewis, Peter Snyder, Robert Feldman, Robert Pietrzak, David Darby, Paul Maruff along with Mirjam Tuk, Debra Trampe and Luk Warlop for studying the effects of holding in urine.

PSYCHOLOGY: Karl Halvor Teigen for trying to understand why people sigh.

LITERATURE: John Perry for his theory of procrastination: To be a high achiever, always work on something important, using it as a way to avoid doing something that's even more important.

BIOLOGY: Daryll Gwynne and David Rentz for discovering that certain kinds of beetles try to mate with certain kinds of Australian beer bottles.

PHYSICS: Philippe Perrin, Cyril Perrot, Dominique Deviterne, Bruno Ragaru and Herman Kingma for trying to determine why discus throwers become dizzy, and why hammer throwers don't.

MATHEMATICS: Assorted doomsday predictors throughout history for teaching the world to be careful when making mathematical assumptions and calculations.

PEACE: Arturas Zuokas for solving the problem of illegally parked cars by crushing them with an armored vehicle.

PUBLIC SAFETY: John Senders for his experiments in which a driver on a major highway repeatedly has a visor flapped down over his face.

Accused Shania Twain stalker: I'll plead guilty

TORONTO (AP)—A man accused of stalking Shania Twain interrupted testimony in his trial Thursday and declared in an outburst that he would plead guilty.

Giovanni Palumbo is charged with three counts of failure to comply with a court order and criminal harassment by watching and besetting.

The Canadian country singer testified via a video link Thursday that the former Ottawa doctor's lovelorn letters and unexpected visits at her family cottage made her feel uncomfortable. She said she had to hire security for a family gathering at her Ontario cottage because Palumbo was seen repeatedly parked in his Lamborghini down the road.

And she also alleged that Palumbo visited her brother-in-law's auto shop with a supposed car issue because he wanted to be closer to her. "The manipulation scared me a bit," Twain said.

After roughly 90 minutes of Twain's testimony, Palumbo—clad in a rumpled black suit and wire-frame glasses—abruptly stood and announced that he'd had enough.

"Eilleen, you can trust me, I'm going to plead guilty," he said, using Twain's real first name.

"I've been offended too much, your honor."

A court recess followed. The trial had been scheduled to last three days.

Courtney Love memoir to 'set the record straight'

NEW YORK (AP)—Courtney Love is ready to spill.

The hard-living rock star and actress known for her band Hole and for her brief marriage to Kurt Cobain has a book deal with William Morrow.

Morrow is an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers. It announced Thursday that Love will "set the record straight."

Love

Her memoir will address life with Cobain, the Nirvana leader who died in 1994, her drug problems and her Hollywood career.

The memoir is currently untitled and is scheduled to come out next fall.

She's among several musicians who recently agreed to write memoirs. Those include Neil Young, Pete Townshend, Carole King and Gregg Allman.

Steve Martin takes top honor at Bluegrass Awards

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Steve Martin and The Steep Canyon Rangers turned the International Bluegrass Music Association Awards into funny business Thursday night.

Martin and his group of crack bluegrassers took entertainer of the year, the night's top award at The Ryman Auditorium while super group The Boxcars took home a leading four awards.

"I want to thank all the other nominees ... for losing," Martin joked after accepting the award.

Martin, the Grammy and Emmy award winner best known as a comedian and writer, is also an accomplished banjo picker who has taken the medium to a wider audience with two albums of mostly original music and a high-profile series of performances. Entertainer of the year goes to the act that does the best job representing the genre.

"It really means a lot, sort of like winning two Oscars," Martin said afterward. "It's something we work very hard at and I kind of started from scratch. I mean I've been playing banjo for 50 years, but performing in a band I've never done. I've done it for about two years ... You know, the hardest part was talking and tuning."

Michelle Obama shops at Washington-area Target

WASHINGTON (AP)—Attention Target shoppers: You could have been standing in line with Michelle Obama.

The first lady, hard to recognize in a baseball cap and sunglasses, shopped Thursday at a Target store in Alexandria, Va., just outside Washington.

Casually dressed Secret Service agents arrived about a half-hour before Mrs. Obama, who walked in through the main entrance with an assistant. She spent 30 to 40 minutes shopping, pushing her own cart. She apparently was recognized only by the cashier who rang up her purchases.

Since coming to the White House, Mrs. Obama has lamented missing out on what she calls "normal stuff," like Target runs.

She isn't the first first lady to try to go out unrecognized. Hillary Rodham Clinton went for walks wearing a baseball cap and sunglasses, too.

First lady Michelle Obama, wearing a hat and sunglasses, stands in line at a Target department store in Alexandria, Va., Thursday, Sept. 29, 2011, after doing some shopping.

AP

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Warner Bros. launches show on Facebook

NEW YORK (AP)—Warner Bros. is launching a Web series on Facebook that will personalize the show for viewers. The show is called "Aim High." It's an action comedy series about a student who doubles as a government operative by night. The studio is calling it the first "social series" from a Hollywood studio on the site. Viewers will be able to integrate their Facebook profile into background elements of the series. Users could see their name appear as graffiti in one scene, or their face on a poster in another. "Aim High" will debut Oct. 18 on Facebook and on Cambio.com. It stars Jackson Rathbone, Aimee Teegarden and Greg Germann.

Studio executive who revived Chaplin interest dies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The movie studio executive who helped revive interest in silent movie icon Charlie Chaplin and orchestrated the aging star's return to the U.S. 40 years ago has died in Los Angeles. Mo Rothman was 92. His family tells the Los Angeles Times that Rothman died on Sept. 15. The New York Times reported Monday that his wife, Lyn, confirmed the death. Rothman was a United Artists manager when he met Chaplin in the 1950s. Chaplin's image was later tarnished by sex scandals and liberal politics. He moved to Switzerland with the rights to his movies in a bitter, self-imposed exile. In 1971, Rothman led a group who paid Chaplin for access to his films. A year later, Chaplin visited the United States in what became a triumphant return.

Reggae pioneer Leonard Dillon dies in Jamaica

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)—The leader of the pioneering reggae group The Ethiopians has died in Jamaica. Leonard Dillon was 68. Daughter Patrice Dillon says her father died Wednesday at her home of lung and prostate cancer. She says Dillon had been diagnosed with cancer in June and underwent surgery to remove a brain tumor earlier this year. Leonard Dillon began his career using the stage name Jack Sparrow in the early 1960s. He recorded a series of ska songs, including "Bull Whip," which featured a young Bob Marley on backing vocals. Dillon later formed The Ethiopians, a trio whose best known hits were "Train to Skaville" and "Everything Crash." Dillon is survived by seven children.

WWE star Jimmy Uso charged with DUI in Tampa

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—World Wrestling Entertainment star Jimmy Uso has been charged with driving under the influence in Tampa. An arrest report says Uso, whose real name is Jonathan Fatu, was arrested early Thursday morning after an officer spotted him driving his silver Mustang the wrong direction on a one-way street. He was later released on $500 bail. Police say the 26-year-old professional wrestler had a blood alcohol level of .18 percent. Florida law considers a driver impaired at .08. Uso and his twin brother Jey have wrestled as a tag team for the WWE since May 2010. Jail records didn't list an attorney. WWE spokesman Kevin Hennessy says the company is looking into the incident.

Three's company to boyfriend; girlfriend says it's a crowd

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Before I met my boyfriend, "Cory," he had a married female friend he'd go out with—dancing, dinner, movies, etc. He says there was no sex involved, and I believe him. He has asked me to be friends with her and her husband, and I have tried.

However, whenever she's around Cory, they ignore everyone else. She even tried to go on vacation with us! What really upset me was when Cory thought it was OK to ask if "we" could go out with her! It's like she has always been in our relationship.

I have told him they are (and have been) having a non-sexual affair. He's a wonderful man otherwise, and I know he loves me. How can I get her out of our lives?

FEELING LIKE A THIRD WHEEL

DEAR FEELING: It would be interesting to know what this female friend's husband thinks about her relationship with your boyfriend. Dinner, dancing, movies—possible shared vacations—seems like an unusual amount of "togetherness." Talk to her husband, and you may gain some insight.

As to how you can get her out of your lives, the answer is you probably can't. Unless your boyfriend is willing to accept that their relationship is a threat to the one he has with you and is willing to let it go, she will be in his life—and yours—for a long, long time.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been happily married for four years. Like many couples, we are discussing having a family and we both agree the time is now.

My husband was adopted at birth by a loving couple whom he has always known as his parents. They are fantastic people, but I'd still like to know my husband's family medical history before putting myself or our child at risk for any hereditary complications.

My mother-in-law thinks this "inquisition into the family's personal business" is uncalled for. I think it's important to get a full family medical history before having children. Am I out of line, or should he try to locate his biological parents?

NEEDS TO KNOW IN IOWA

DEAR NEEDS TO KNOW: I don't think you're out of line. However, if your husband is reluctant to reach out—even to request his birth parents' medical histories—then you may be able to obtain the information you're concerned about by having genetic testing done on the two of you. If necessary, discuss it with your physician.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a coach's wife and would love some advice on how to handle "fans" who make rude comments about the people who coach their high school-age kids.

I listen to parents constantly gripe and complain about their children's coaches. How can I gracefully manage this situation? I refuse to listen to degrading, negative comments about my husband and his co-workers. Please advise.

MRS. COACH IN TEXAS

DEAR MRS. COACH: There is nothing you can do to stop comments like that during a game. Some parents act more like children than their children do. However, if it's happening in social situations, a way to deal with it would be to remind the offenders that you'd rather not hear about "work" when you're trying to have fun. Another would be to excuse yourself if the parent has been drinking.

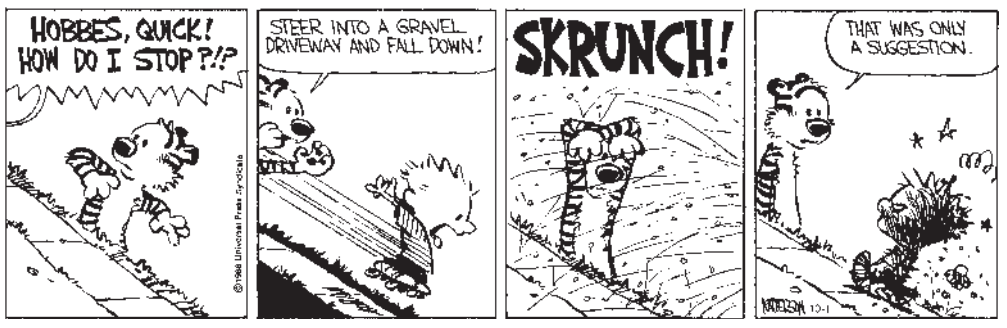
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

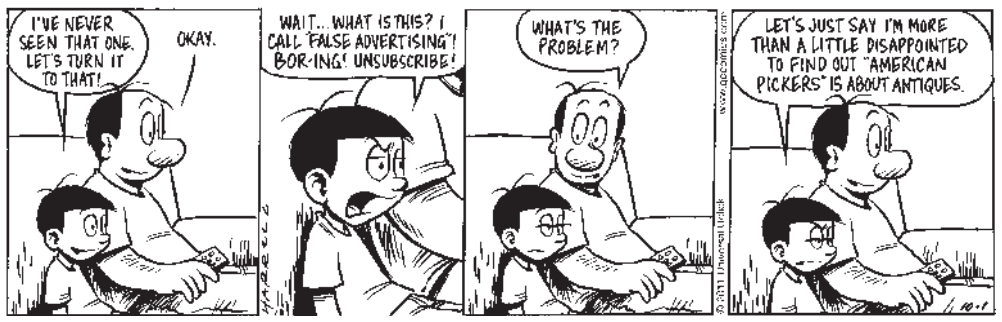


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

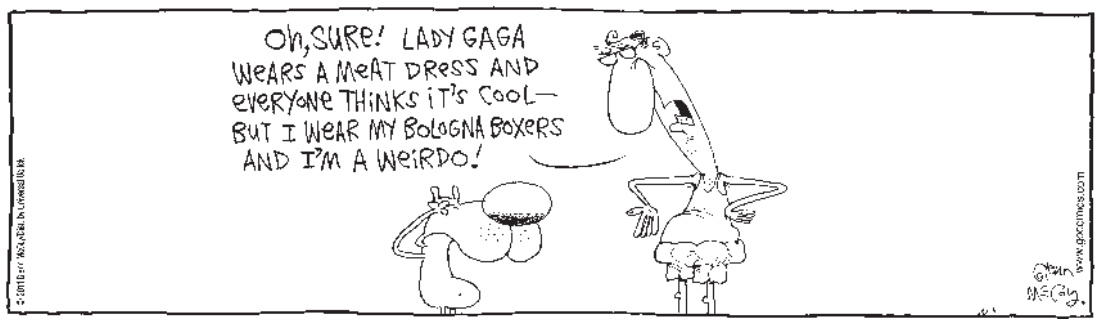
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I'VE NEVER SEEN THAT ONE. LET'S TURN IT TO THAT!
OKAY.
WAIT... WHAT IS THIS? I CALL FALSE ADVERTISING"! BOR-ING! UNSUBSCRIBE!
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
LET'S JUST SAY I'M MORE THAN A LITTLE DISAPPOINTED TO FIND OUT "AMERICAN PICKERS" IS ABOUT ANTIQUES.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Pompous sort
4 High-five, e.g.
8 Stephen King's mad dog
12 Mainlander's memento
13 Hardly a teetotaler
14 On
15 Crony
16 The third man?
17 Rescue
18 Lena Horne classic
21 Masseur's workplace
22 Prompt
23 Boat contents
26 Tibetan critter
27 High-arc shot
30 Puppy's squeal
31 Make marginalia
32 Stash
33 Larry's buddy
34 Moo goo gai pan pan
35 Hen
36 Ph. bk. info
37 Solidify
38 Shoe material
45 Canal zone
46 Dryer collection
47 Clay, now
48 On in years
49 Beige
50 Creed
51 Optimistic
52 Profound
53 Appomattox also-ran

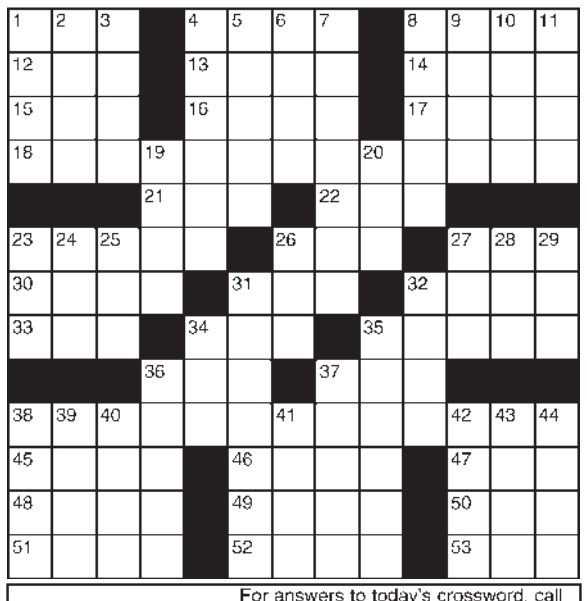
DOWN

1 Matterhorn et al.
2 Membership
3 Missile shelter
4 Beetle Bailey's base camp
5 Tripoli's country
6 From square one
7 Skunk
8 Societal level
9 Beehive State
10 Jupiter's alias
11 Abbr. on older phones
19 Answer an invite
20 Diving bird
23 Workout site
24 Vintage car
25 Heady quaff
26 Hearty laugh (Var.)
27 Cover
28 Peculiar
29 Ottoman governor
31 Nudged
32 Sword handle
34 Triumphed
35 Dilapidated
36 Indigent
37 Literary category
38 Bosc or Bartlett
39 Jason's ship
40 Father's Day gifts
41 Grown-up nits
42 Greet
43 Additionally
44 Frost

Solution time: 27 mins.

P	A	T		H	A	P		K	O	A	L	A
I	L	O		E	R	A		A	U	D	E	N
L	I	P		R	O	C	K	Y	R	O	A	D
A	B	A		B	U	E	N	O				
F	I	Z	Z		S	R	O		H	A	R	P
			I	R	E		W	E	E	N	I	E
W	I	M	P	Y				M	A	Y	O	R
E	L	O	P	E	D		J	U	T			
F	I	M	O		O	R	O		S	T	A	Y
				B	I	F	A	T		H	U	F
R	O	C	K	Y	I	A	N	F		U	R	N
A	W	A	I	T		D	N	A		M	A	T
P	F	N	N	Γ		Y	A	M		P	Γ	A

Yesterday's answer 10-1



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Zach Galifianakis, 42; Esai Morales, 49; Randy Quaid, 61; Julie Andrews, 76.

Happy Birthday: Let your skills, knowledge and finesse lead the way. You can get ahead if you don't fear failure. Plunge into any opportunity with innocence. Being receptive to others and their ideas will ensure that you receive any assistance you need. Believe in your abilities and so will everyone around you. Speak up and you will be heard. Your numbers are 7, 16, 22, 28, 32, 40, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Your unpredictability will confuse some, but for others it will be a pleasure. Love is on the rise and a commitment can be made. Good fortune is apparent through an old colleague, peer or friend. Welcome a challenge and embrace life. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Someone may attempt to push you into a debate. Don't let anger or stubbornness take over. You will win if you do not overreact or refuse to compromise. Home improvement, real estate shopping or a residential move will bring positive results. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You are spot-on when it comes to your assessment of people and plans. Your imagination will produce ideas that will inspire others. Romance is highlighted and spending the evening hours with someone special will enhance your love life. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Face the music and deal with any issues that are pending or holding you back. Realize what it will take to make your situation more amenable and start the process. It's procrastination that will be your downfall. Stop talking and start doing. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Try something new. Associate with new people and you will open a window of opportunity to improve yourself and your life. Take the first step and initiate change. Romance is looming and with the right signals you can enjoy a loving relationship. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Avoid confiding in someone who is likely to use emotional blackmail on you later. Make home improvements or alterations that better suit your lifestyle. Offering assistance to someone in need will keep you occupied and out of trouble. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Use insight and persuasion to get what you want. Getting together with friends, neighbors or relatives will give you a better understanding of where you stand. Don't let changes unnerve you or lead to a hasty decision. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Rethink a plan or project. You are not seeing it realistically. Listen to the suggestions being made by someone with experience or insight. Don't fight the inevitable; make it work for you instead. Go with the flow for better results. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): A mini-vacation that offers new surroundings or unusual activities will spark greater enthusiasm. Make financial gains through an investment, challenge or venture you pursue. Don't hide your feelings. The truth is essential to progress. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You'll have trouble conversing with people from different backgrounds or those who don't have the same values or opinions as you. Don't waste time trying to get others to see things your way. You will get further ahead by avoiding interference. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Make strategic moves that will enhance your professional chances. There is money to be made and contracts that will benefit you. Your intuition is good and your ideas are sound. Follow your heart to connect with someone special. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): A secret will lead to a moneymaking venture. Spruce up your looks or get yourself in tiptop shape by setting up a routine that encourages you to use your body and your mind. Avoid negative encounters with loud-mouthed bullies. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: Your personality is adventurous, outgoing and adaptable. You are entertaining, engaging and popular.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			2		1			
	6						9	
	2				8		5	
2		3	7		5			1
9			8		2	3		7
	8		9				7	
	5						2	
			4		6			

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	7	4	8	1	2	9	3	5
3	2	1	5	4	9	8	6	7
9	8	5	7	6	3	4	2	1
1	3	6	9	2	8	7	5	4
2	9	7	1	5	4	3	8	6
4	5	8	6	3	7	1	9	2
5	4	2	3	8	1	6	7	9
8	6	9	4	7	5	2	1	3
7	1	3	2	9	6	5	4	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/30

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

JACK LAYTON (1950-2011) **Solution: 9 letters**

N	L	S	S	A	D	D	L	I	U	B	E	R	C	R
A	E	O	P	T	I	M	I	S	T	I	C	Y	O	O
I	A	W	N	E	R	D	L	E	S	E	I	T	U	D
D	D	D	D	A	E	O	E	A	O	L	F	R	N	E
A	E	E	D	E	I	C	N	M	C	I	F	A	C	P
N	R	D	D	I	M	P	H	G	I	V	O	P	I	R
A	H	I	E	C	W	O	H	C	A	I	V	I	L	O
C	O	U	R	A	G	E	C	A	L	C	T	D	E	F
T	P	G	I	B	O	O	K	R	E	R	E	A	L	E
I	E	U	P	O	L	L	H	B	A	B	I	K	E	S
V	F	I	S	T	A	U	E	L	A	T	E	D	C	S
I	U	T	N	T	D	U	L	T	Y	T	I	C	T	O
S	L	A	I	S	Q	Y	E	R	I	A	H	C	I	R
T	O	R	O	N	T	O	L	L	A	B	E	T	O	V
C	A	N	V	A	S	S	E	R	Y	G	R	E	N	E

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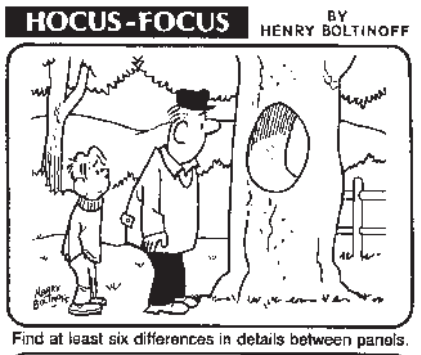
Activist, Ballot, Bikes, Book, Calm, Canadian, Canvasser, Chair, Chow, City, Civil, Council, Courage, Debate, Duties, Election, Energy, Guided, Guitar, Hopeful, Hudson, Inspired, Leader, Media, New Democratic, Office, Olivia, Optimistic, Party, Piano, Poll, Professor, Quebec, Rally, Rebuild, Rode, Seat, Social, Speech, Strong, Talk, Toronto, Vote

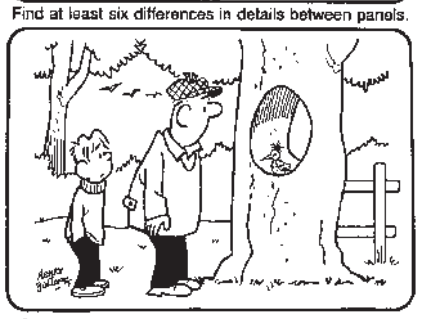
Yesterday's Answer: Fertilizer

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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5. Birds have been added. 6. Hills in distance are missing.

Wishing Well®

7	2	5	2	3	4	3	8	6	2	4	2	5
P	S	J	E	U	B	N	N	A	C	I	R	O
8	4	7	6	5	4	6	8	5	2	8	3	8
O	N	R	F	Y	D	A	W	F	E	C	I	O
4	8	6	5	4	7	6	2	3	8	2	7	4
I	N	S	O	N	O	T	T	O	T	A	P	G
3	2	5	6	3	4	3	2	8	2	5	7	5
N	D	R	S	O	O	F	M	E	I	P	H	A
3	5	4	7	5	7	4	7	5	2	3	7	2
M	S	F	E	T	T	T	I	A	R	I	C	E
3	7	4	2	8	6	7	6	7	5	4	6	7
N	D	I	R	N	T	R	A	E	C	E	R	A
4	3	6	3	7	5	7	5	8	5	8	5	8
S	D	T	S	M	T	S	I	T	O	E	N	D

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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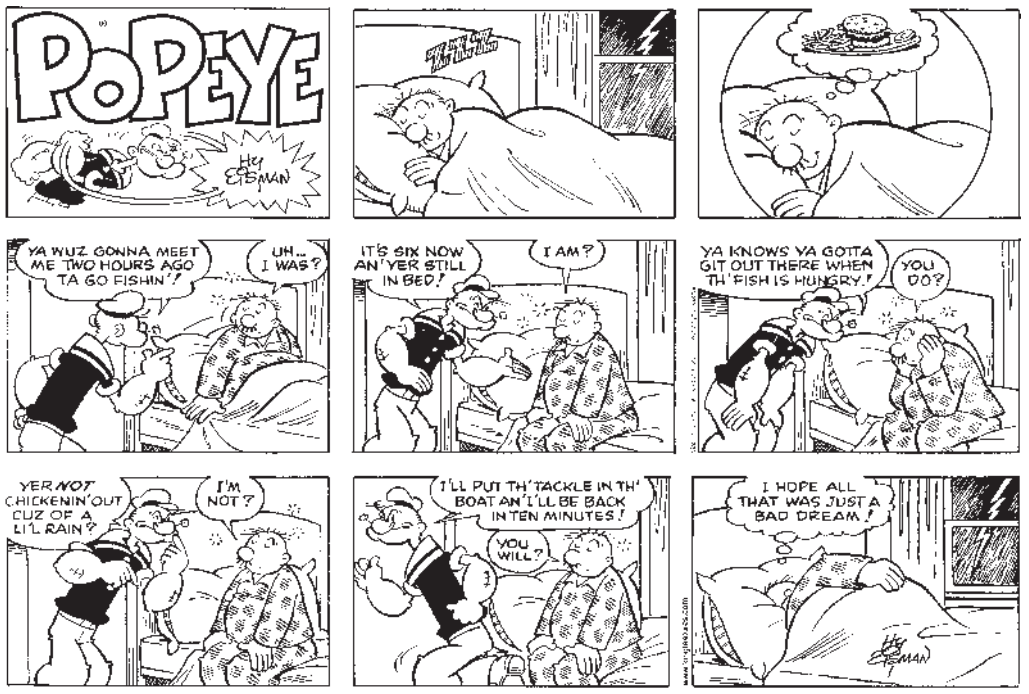
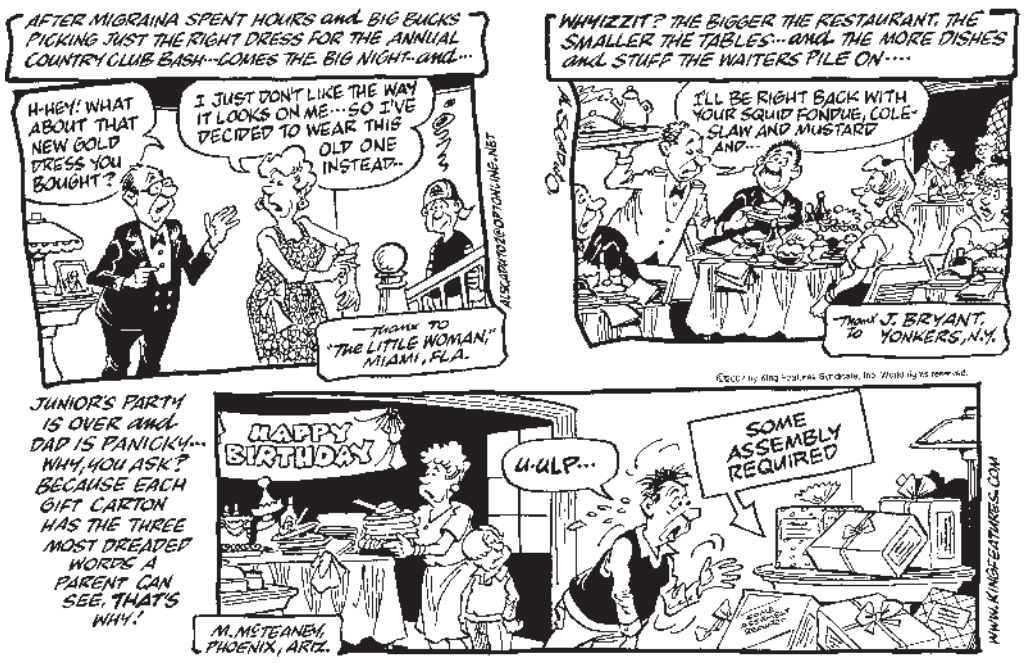
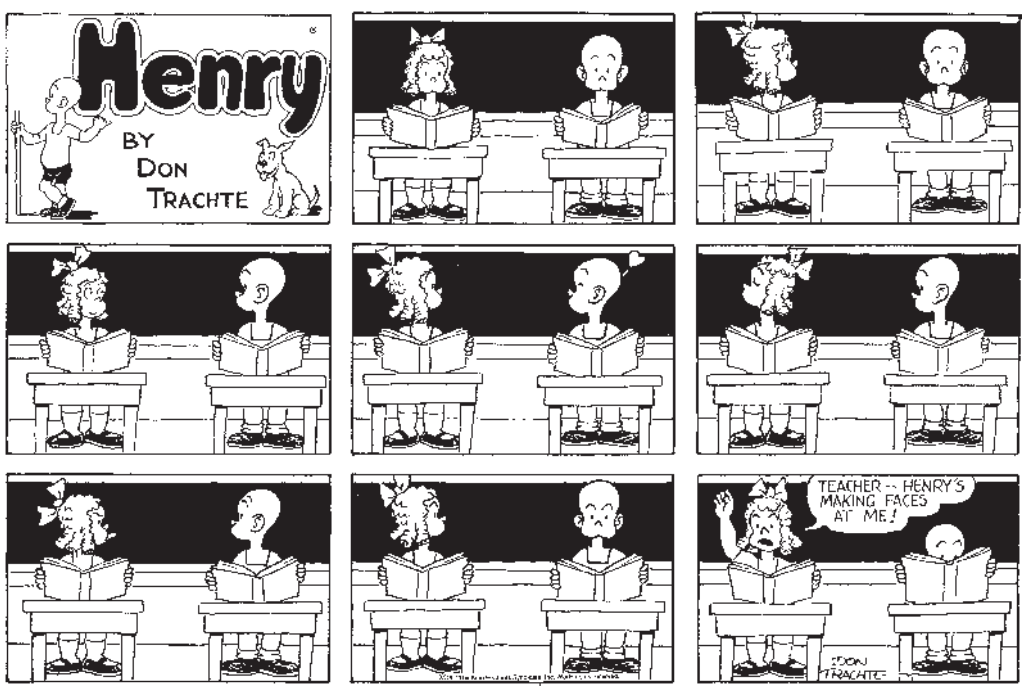

POPEYE
HEY EISMAN
YA WUZ GONNA MEET ME TWO HOURS AGO TA GO FISHIN'?
UH... I WAS?
IT'S SIX NOW AN' YER STILL IN BED!
I AM?
YA KNOWS YA GOTTA GIT OUT THERE WHEN TH' FISH IS HUNGRY!
YOU DO?
YER NOT CHICKENIN' OUT CUZ OF A LI'L RAIN?
I'M NOT?
I'LL PUT TH' TACKLE IN TH' BOAT AN' I'LL BE BACK IN TEN MINUTES!
YOU WILL?
I HOPE ALL THAT WAS JUST A BAD DREAM!
HEY EISMAN

They'll Do It Every Time by Al Scaduto


AFTER MIGRAINA SPENT HOURS and BIG BUCKS PICKING JUST THE RIGHT DRESS FOR THE ANNUAL COUNTRY CLUB BASH--COMES THE BIG NIGHT--and...
H-HEY! WHAT ABOUT THAT NEW GOLD DRESS YOU BOUGHT?
I JUST DON'T LIKE THE WAY IT LOOKS ON ME--SO I'VE DECIDED TO WEAR THIS OLD ONE INSTEAD..
—THANX TO "THE LITTLE WOMAN," MIAMI, FLA.
WHIZZIT? THE BIGGER THE RESTAURANT, THE SMALLER THE TABLES--and THE MORE DISHES and STUFF THE WAITERS PILE ON....
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK WITH YOUR SQUID FONDUE, COLE-SLAW AND MUSTARD AND...
—THANX J. BRYANT, YONKERS, N.Y.
JUNIOR'S PARTY IS OVER and DAD IS PANICKY... WHY, YOU ASK? BECAUSE EACH GIFT CARTON HAS THE THREE MOST DREADED WORDS A PARENT CAN SEE. THAT'S WHY!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
U-ULP...
SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED
M. MSTEANEM, PHOENIX, ARIZ.
WWW.KINGFEATURES.COM



Super Crossword

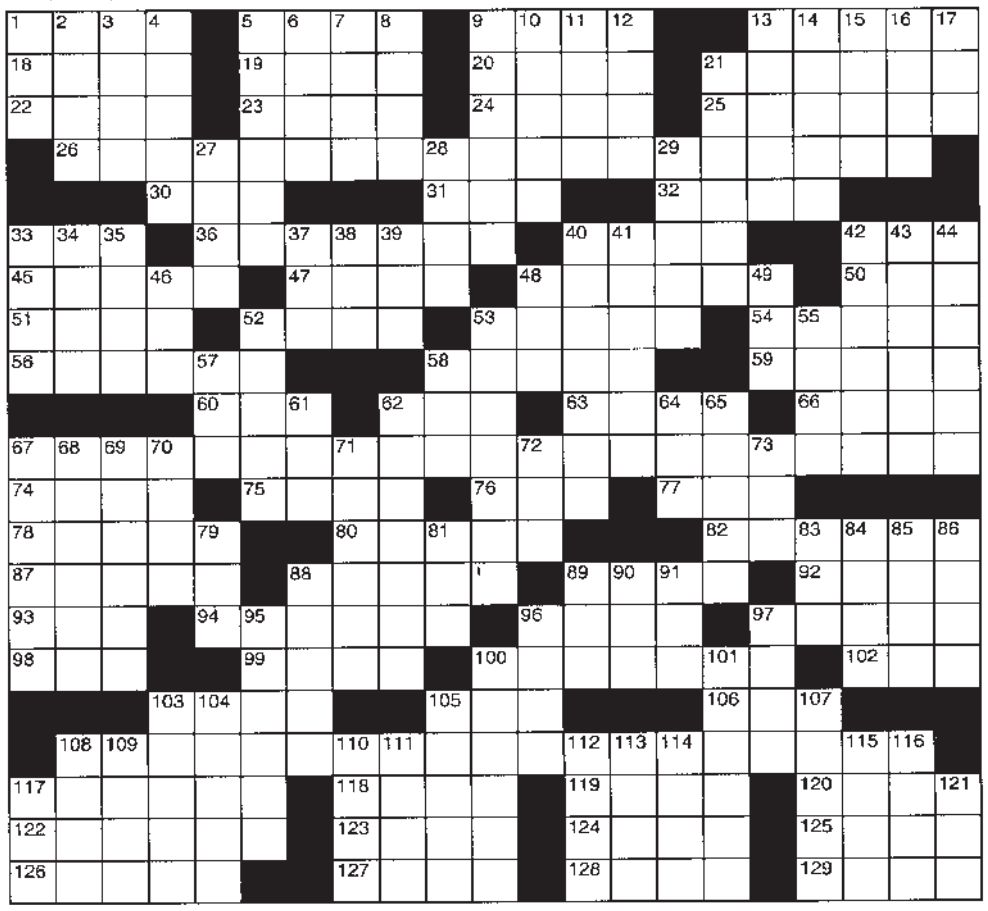
STICKY PROBLEM

ACROSS

1 Caesar's suit?
5 Fiber source
9 "— Breaky Heart" ('92 hit)
13 Haberdashery items
18 Left open
19 Comfort
20 Hint
21 Southwestern native
22 Java joint
23 About
24 Deep unconsciousness
25 Set's sibling
26 Start of a question
30 Tucked into the tortellini
31 Gibbon or gorilla
32 Orient
33 Chew the fat
36 Occupy
40 "Git, Garfield!"
42 Commercials
45 Rap-sheet datum
47 Landed
48 Runnymede's river
50 See 56 Across
51 "Chain —" ('60 hit)
52 Tribe
53 On guard
54 Ignominy
56 With 50 Across, fluffy feline
58 Munch (on)
59 Summarize
60 Pound sound
62 Wine and dine
63 Saucy
66 Speech problem
67 Middle of question
74 Jack of "Rio Lobo"
75 Word with rug or code
76 Couple
77 Pindaric poem
78 Annoys
80 Norwegian composer
82 Distressed one?
87 Turn inside out
88 Ulan —
89 Torso
92 Nurse's helper
93 DC figure
94 Jonathan Winters' birthplace
96 Odense denizen
97 Ladd role
98 Humorist Buchwald
99 Submachine gun
100 Barber opera
102 Deface
103 Repeat
105 Fraternity sticker
106 Palm Sunday beast
108 End of question
117 King's thing
118 Add color
119 Circle dance
120 Orthodox image
122 Evaluate
123 Voice type
124 Fruit-tree spray
125 Metric measure
126 Subject
127 See 65 Down
128 Oenophile's mecca
129 Dutch export

DOWN

1 Tic- — -toe
2 Ventura County city
3 Fish hook
4 Amphitheater feature
5 Defeated
6 Prickly heat, e.g.
7 — Spumante
8 Light material
9 Take
10 Garlic segment
11 Actor Cronyn
12 "My Favorite —" ('82 film)
13 Foundation
14 Put on the street
15 Songbird
16 "So — is the thanks I get!"
17 Sea plea
21 Record music, in a way
27 Singer Redding
28 Trot or gallop
29 Sordid
33 Enthusiastic
34 Parsons or Paton
35 Impresario Rudolf
37 Producer Prince
38 Menu phrase
39 Coal container
40 Salon supply
41 It may be magic
42 Small shrub
43 Patterned fabric
44 Plain
46 Give it — (try)
48 Even if, informally
49 Ukr., formerly
52 Hills or Thomas
53 Shore soup
55 Hamilton detective
57 Hurricane fliers
58 Pigeon English?
61 In honor of
62 Pulitzer winner
64 Sweater letter
65 With 127 Across, toyshop buy
67 Brewer or Graves
68 "Jean" singer
69 Aptitude
70 Part of EMT
71 Void
72 Excavated
73 Archaic assent
79 Part of EST
81 Noun suffix
83 — -jongg
84 "The King and I" setting
85 Author Ferber
86 Wolfish expression
88 English Romantic
89 Outlaw
90 Quindlen's "— True Thing"
91 — Peres, MO
95 Definitely dislikes
96 Like some cellars
97 Manuscript enc.
100 Herbert or Hugo
101 North African feature
103 Violinist Zimbalist
104 Intimate
105 1492 vessel
107 Director Lee
108 Marley's colleague
109 Celtic
110 Pierce
111 Mosaic bit
112 Comparative word
113 Alley's angel
114 "The Parent —" ('61 film)
115 Biting
116 Vincent Lopez's theme song
117 Beaver, for one
121 — de plume



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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What was the former name of New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport?
2. TELEVISION: Who played Eliot Ness on the original TV show "The Untouchables"?
3. LITERATURE: Who wrote "The Pump House Gang"?
4. MUSIC: Which singer kicked off the national dance craze called The Twist?
5. MOVIES: When did the animated feature "Dumbo" debut?
6. FOOD & DRINK: Edam is a popular type of what?
7. GEOGRAPHY: Goshen was a region in which ancient land?
8. SCIENCE: Psephology is the study of what?
9. POETRY: How many lines are in a standard sonnet?
10. LANGUAGE: What does the Greek prefix "ornitho" mean?

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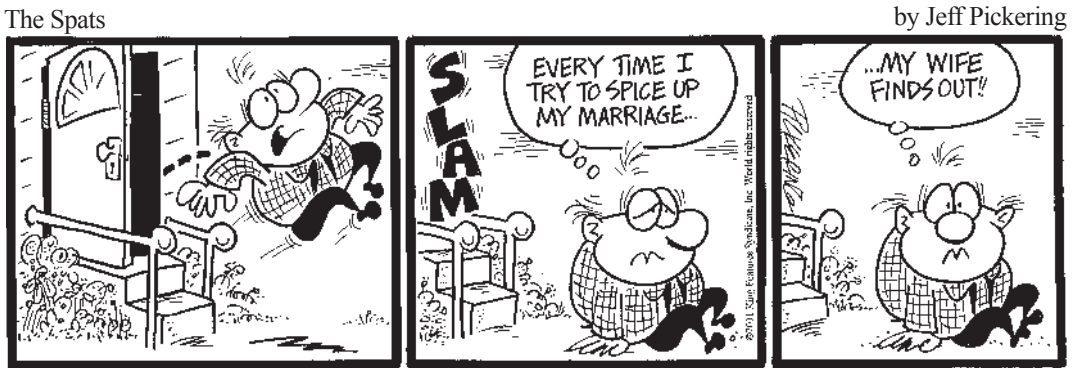
Answers

1. Idlewild
2. Robert Stack
3. Tom Wolfe
4. Chubby Checker
5. 1941
6. Cheese
7. Egypt
8. Elections
9. 14 lines
10. Bird

Saturday's Answers

The Spats by Jeff Pickering



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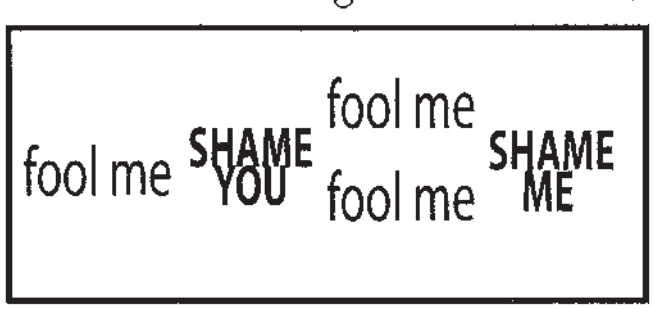

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Grace Christian Academy
is looking for:

Registrar (1)

Qualifications
Minimum 2 years experience in a Christian School;
Proficient in computer skills: excel, Word, Photoshop;
Proficient in filing/record-keeping;
Communication skills: community, parents, various ethnic groups;
Minimum 2 years experience in a Christian School;
Must be willing to submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the school;
Must adhere to all school policies and procedure.
Salary: $5.05 - $9.25

Pre-school teacher. (1)

Qualifications
Holder of Bachelor's degree preferably Early Childhood Education;
At least 2 years teaching experience in Early Childhood education, preferably in a Christian school;
Must be ACSI certified;
Must be willing to submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the school;
Must adhere to all school policies and procedure;
Salary: $5.05 - $7.71

Substitute Teacher (1)

Holder of a BA degree;
Must be flexible with substituting in any grade level;
Must be willing to submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the school;
Must adhere to all school policies and procedure;
Preferably ACSI certified.
Salary: $5.05 - $9.32

Bookkeeper (2)

Holder of Bachelor's degree preferably in Accounting;
At least 2 years experience preferably in a Christian atmosphere;
Can work independently and less supervision;
Must be willing to submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the school;
Must adhere to all school policies and procedure;
Knowledge in School Minder/Accountrak programs preferred.
Salary: $5.05 - $8.58

Maintenance – Repairer

Must have at least 2 years experience as ground/building maintenance;
Must be at least high school graduate;
Must be willing to submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the school
Must adhere to all school policies and procedure.
Salary: $5.05 - $7.89

2 Elementary School Teachers
1 Middle School Teacher
2 High School Teachers G9-G12)

Qualifications
Holder of Bachelor's degree in education or related field; major in any one of these subjects for middle school and High school, Math, Science, English;
At least 2 years teaching experience preferably in a Christian school;
Must be ACSI certified;
Must be willing to submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the school;
Must adhere to all school policies and procedure;
Salary: $5.19 - $18.26/hour

Business Administrator:

Holder of Bachelor's degree in Business Administration major in Accounting;
At least 5 years experience in a managerial capacity in the area of finance, and general services preferably in a Christian atmosphere;
Must be able to direct and administer financial/administrative operations of the organization;
Must be able to formulate & implement financial policies and procedures in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
Must be able to prepare, analyze, and interpret financial reports;
Must be willing to submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the school;
Must adhere to all school policies and procedure;
Salary: $7.75 - $24.64/hour

Interested applicants may download application form at www.gca-nmi.com
Submit completed application to Grace Christian Academy, Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
GCA is accredited with the Association of Christian Schools International

Grace Christian Academy Tinian Campus
is looking for:

2 Elementary School Teachers and 2 Junior High Teachers – Full Time
Qualifications:
- Must be a holder of Bachelor's degree with at least 2 years teaching experience, preferably in a Christian School
- Must be willing to submit previous employer reference (non-relative) providing a proven track record for timeliness, excellent work ethic and job/personal responsibility.
- Must accept without verbal or mental reservations both the Statement of Faith and the education/doctrinal beliefs and objectives of the school (Grace Christian Academy) and the church (Tinian Christian Assembly of God)
- Must Adhere to all school and church policies and procedures and be willing to perform various other duties outside a classroom setting if need be.

Salary: $5.05/hour

1 School Custodian worker – Part Time – 25 hours per week
Qualifications:
- Must have a high school diploma or equivalent and at least 2 years experience as a school custodian having experience maintaining/overseeing all day to day facility operations of a school including grounds keeping, general building maintenance and various other school and student related responsibilities.
- Must be willing to submit previous employer references (non-relative) providing a proven track record for timeliness, excellent work ethic and job/personal responsibility.
- Must accept without verbal or mental reservations both the Statement of Faith and the educational/doctrinal beliefs and objectives of the school (Grace Christian Academy) and the church (Tinian Christian Assembly of God)
- Must adhere to all school and church policies and procedures and be willing to perform various other duties outside regular job duties if need be.

Salary: $5.05/hour

Applications may be downloaded at www.gca-nmi.com
Please submit completed applications to:
Grace Christian Academy – Tinian / PO Box 520422 by mail or in person
GCA is a member of the Association of Christian Schools International

Grace Christian Academy Rota Campus
is looking for:

1 Preschool Teacher
Holder of high School Diploma and at least 2 years teaching experience preferably in a Christian School

1 Elementary School Teacher
Holder of Bachelor's degree in education or related field; at least 2 years teaching experience preferably in a Christian School;
- Must be willing to submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the school;
- Must adhere to all school policies and procedures;

Salary: $5.05/hour

Interested applicants may download application form at www.gca-nmi.com
Submit completed applications to:
Grace Christian Academy, Sinapalo 1, Rota, MP 96951
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In 2011, a Red Sox collapse for a new generation

BOSTON (AP)—"Fire away," Red Sox general manager Theo Epstein told reporters at the start of his season-ending news conference. And then, because he's seen how things go in Boston when a team doesn't live up to high expectations, he added, "Not literally."

A day after the Red Sox completed an unprecedented September collapse, Epstein told reporters at a somber and largely deserted Fenway Park on Thursday that the entire organization shared the blame for blowing a nine-game lead in 25 days and promised his full effort in figuring out what went wrong.

"The bottom line is, we failed. And our owners deserve better, the fans deserve better and we have to fix it," Epstein said. "We're going to take a look in the mirror and see if we're the ones to fix it."

The Red Sox led the AL East for much of the season and held a nine-game lead over the Tampa Bay Rays in the wild-card race on the morning of Sept. 4. But Boston went 7-20 in September to blow the lead and miss the playoffs entirely, a collapse that wasn't complete until closer Jonathan Papelbon blew a one-run lead with one strike to go against Baltimore on Wednesday night and the Orioles won 4-3.

Just minutes later, the Rays completed their comeback from a 7-0 deficit against the New York Yankees and clinched the wild-card berth.

"A very quiet day in Boston after a terrible, terrible month for the fans. Night after night they came, they tuned in. Rain, quiet streets," Red Sox owner John Henry wrote on Twitter. "Congratulations to the entire Tampa Bay organization on a miraculous, but well-earned passport to the postseason."

Henry did not respond to a request for comment, and co-owner Tom Werner said he was "still absorbing last night's collapse." But it was not just one night of failure that doomed this team.

The Red Sox lost their first six games and opened the season 2-10, but they went a major league-best 81-42 from then through Aug. 31 to take a comfortable lead in the playoff race. As it slowly disappeared, players insisted they would pull out of the slide in time; but Epstein and manager Terry Francona both acknowledged on Thursday that they saw signs of trouble.

"A lot of things went wrong and a lot of things had to go wrong for us to blow the lead, and they did. But I don't think they were completely unforeseen," Epstein said. "The bottom line is we didn't find a way to stop the slide."

Francona said he called a team meeting earlier in the month in Toronto—even after a 14-0 win. He did not specify what he saw, but said "normally, as a season progresses, there's events that make you care about each other."

"With this team, it didn't happen as much as I wanted it to. I was frustrated about that," he said. "You don't need a team that wants to go out to dinner together. But you need a team that wants to protect each other on the field and be fiercely loyal to each other on the field."

Those problems bubbled to the surface in September, when the Red Sox failed to win consecutive games. Boston finished 90-72, one game behind the Rays and seven behind the archrival New York Yankees; the nine-game lead was the biggest ever held in September by a team that failed to make the playoffs.

"I think we'll be dissecting that forever," Epstein said.

Only a handful of players appeared in the cardboard box-filled Red Sox clubhouse on Thursday afternoon, including Jonathan Papelbon and John Lackey; they did not speak to reporters. Upstairs, Epstein told reporters everything will be evaluated over the offseason, including the front office and the coaching staff.

But Epstein said he would not make a scapegoat of Francona, who led the team to World Series championships in 2004, ending the franchise's 86-year drought, and in 2007. The front office, owners and coaches have already begun meeting to figure out what went wrong, Epstein said, and "nobody blames what happened in September on Tito."

"That would be totally irresponsible and shortsighted," Epstein said. "As an organization we have to look at our successes and failures, and what happened in 2011—we take full responsibility for it. All of us collectively look at it as a failure. I'm the general manager, so I take more responsibility than anybody.

"But I know we don't believe in scapegoats, particularly blaming Tito for what happened in September. We all failed collectively. We're all together in this; we've got to live with that. We're not pointing fingers at any one person in particular."

The Red Sox reportedly have 10 days to decide whether to pick up the manager's two-year option. Francona said he and Epstein had already approached the topic, but declined to comment on his future.

"It's still pretty fresh," he said, "and pretty raw."

Epstein said the "silver lining" of the team's collapse was that, had the Red Sox made the playoffs, it would have been easier to overlook the shortcomings of the team that played so poorly down the stretch.

No chance of that happening now.

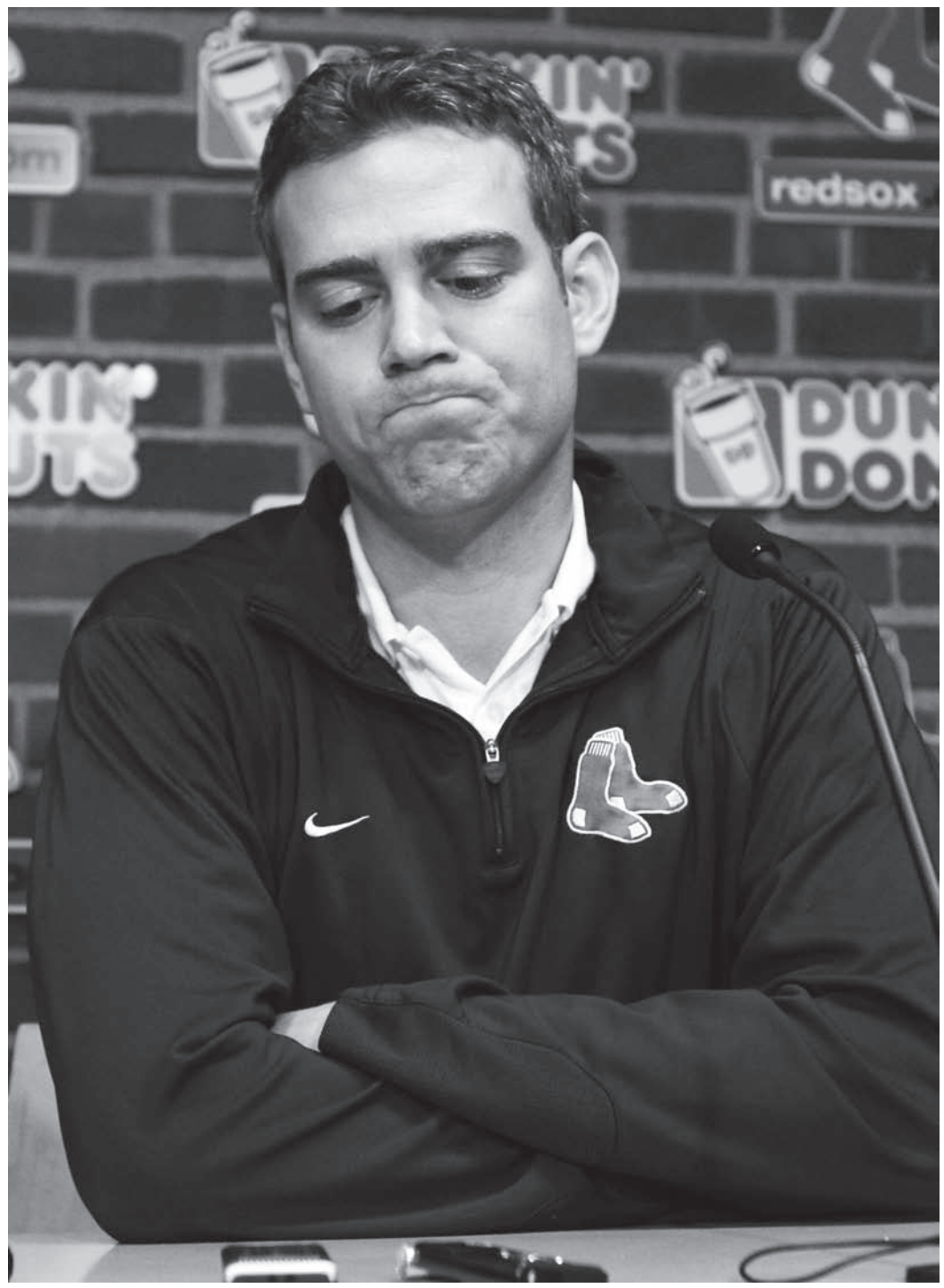
"When you go through what we just went through, you can't look past anything," Epstein said. "We have to take a hard look at every aspect of the organization—myself included."

Among the problems Epstein took the blame for were the decisions on some high-priced free agents. Though he didn't call them mistakes, Epstein acknowledged that the team needs more from both Lackey, who was 12-12 with a 6.41 ERA in the second year of a five-year, $82.5 million deal, and Carl Crawford, who signed a seven-year, $142 million deal last offseason.

"The rehabilitation of John Lackey," Epstein said, "I think it's a big priority, for obvious reasons."

And the same is true of Crawford, who was at or near career lows with a .255 average, 18 stolen bases, 11 homers and 56 RBIs.

"Carl has taken full and very public responsibility for having a disappointing year," Epstein said. "The next step is, what are you going to do about it."



Boston Red Sox general manager Theo Epstein reacts at a news conference at Fenway Park in Boston, Thursday, Sept. 29, 2011, one day after the Red Sox failed to make the baseball playoff.

AP

Playoffs ready to take flight for Yankees, Tigers

NEW YORK (AP)—After a long flight, a pre-dawn arrival and a workout that came all too soon, Derek Jeter is ready for the playoffs.

Almost. First, a good night's sleep would be nice.

"Man, I got home at 4:30. I don't even know what I'm saying right now," a bleary-eyed Jeter said Thursday, a day before he and the New York Yankees face Justin Verlander and the Detroit Tigers in an AL division series opener. "It's not fun yet."

It's about to be, though. Justin Verlander vs. CC Sabathia in Game 1 is about as good as postseason matchups get.

"It's funny. The season has kind of gone full circle," Yankees first baseman Mark Teixeira said. "We started in March with Verlander and CC opening day and now the playoffs. It should be fun."

Verlander, who went 24-5 with a 2.40 ERA and 250 strikeouts, looms as one of the biggest first-round obstacles for the Yankees. Of course, the Yankees have an ace of their own in Sabathia, who goes against a Tigers' lineup that carried Detroit to a 30-9 finish to the season.

The Yankees have been coasting since wrapping up the AL East. The last time these teams met—the 2006 division series Detroit took 3-1 on its way to an AL pennant—it was the Tigers who came in cold after losing their last five. This year, The Yankees finished by being swept in Tampa Bay and losing their last four.

"A whole new season starts tomorrow for everybody," Tigers manager Jim Leyland said.

No more setting up rotations, no more bench players starting and no more protecting key relievers—as Yankees manager Joe Girardi did by not using Mariano Rivera, David Robertson or Rafael Soriano against the Rays. No more anything but trying to make every out count.

It all starts Friday night with the tastiest of first-round pitching matchups.

"Hopefully, it's a good one," Sabathia said. "We've faced off a lot, me playing in that division for a long time. He's had one of the best seasons for a pitcher ever, I think."

In Game 2, it's New York's Ivan Nova vs. Doug Fister, with Detroit's Max Scherzer and Freddy Garcia slated for Game 3. If there's a fourth game, Girardi plans to bring back Sabathia on short rest. Leyland has said he won't pitch Verlander on short rest in the first round, even if Detroit is facing elimination in Game 4.

While most of the attention has been on Verlander, a near lock for the AL Cy Young and a strong candidate to be the first starting pitcher to win the AL MVP since Roger Clemens in 1986, Fister has been even better since the Tigers traded for him in July.

Fister is 7-0 with a 0.65 ERA in his last eight outings. Fister, picked up in a six-player deal with Seattle on July 30, has gone 20 innings without walking a batter.

He and Verlander are a combined 14-0 with a 1.61 ERA in 16 appearances since Aug. 16. Of course, Verlander has been doing it all year - he's 22-2 since throwing a no-hitter against Toronto on May 7.

"There's not really a chance to sit back and kind of let it soak in," Verlander said. "Once the last pitch is thrown—hopefully, after we have won a World Series—I can sit down and look back and enjoy it. For right now, I'm focused on Game 1."

The Tigers also have some pop in their lineup. While not as daunting top to bottom in the order as New York, Detroit features AL batting champion Miguel Cabrera, Victor Martinez and Jhonny Peralta. And catcher Alex Avila has been a revelation, with 19 homers and a .295 average.

The Yankees, of course, have Alex Rodriguez, Robinson Cano and Teixeira slugging away at the heart of their order. A-Rod will hit behind Cano in the postseason, swapping their usual order from the regular season. And then there's former Tigers outfielder Curtis Granderson, who had a career year with 41 homers.

"I've seen his numbers, and they're amazing," Verlander said.

Not that it will matter Friday night, when everyone's stats are reset to zero and what happens from then on is all that counts. It's almost here.

"I'm not excited yet," Jeter said. "The excitement starts tomorrow."

With eye on clock, NBA owners, players seek deal

NEW YORK (AP)—They don't have a deal yet, and they are just about out of time.

After some two years of on-and-off negotiations, that's about all NBA players and owners agree on. The gaps in their financial proposals have been so great that they sometimes decide it's best to just talk about something else.

Now they have to figure it out quickly. Without at least getting very close to the framework of a new collective bargaining agreement this weekend, hopes of the 2011-12 season starting on time would be all but lost.

"We realize that the calendar, the clock, the watch, whatever you want to say, is running out in terms of starting our regular season on time. So we're going to try to get some things done this weekend and see what we can do," said the Lakers' Derek Fisher, president of the players' association.

The owners' labor relations committee and the union's executive committee—perhaps joined by some All-Stars—will meet Friday and have committed to keep talking throughout the weekend. Both sides have cautioned that bringing back the large groups after as series of discussions among smaller parties doesn't mean they are close, but rather that more voices are required to consider the crucial decisions.

There are 11 owners and nine players on the committees, including All-Star Chris Paul, who may try to bring along friends such as Carmelo Anthony and LeBron James that are scheduled to join him Saturday in a charity game in his hometown of Winston-Salem, N.C.

It's doubtful the presence of the superstars makes much impact—Anthony acknowledged this week that "we really don't know how powerful we are at this moment"—but opening up the room beyond the top negotiators has backfired before.

AP

NBA Commissioner David Stern talks to the media after taking part in talks between negotiators for the basketball league's owners and players, Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2011 in New York.

Talks broke down last time the large groups were together on Sept. 13, but Commissioner David Stern said he and union executive director Billy Hunter believe it's necessary to summon them again with the Nov. 1 opener at stake.

"If we're at a period of enormous opportunity and great risk, the larger the group that is assembled to focus on that, the better from my perspective," Stern said. "And I think Billy and I are on the same page on this."

They aren't, though, on major salary and system issues.

Owners are seeking a more restrictive salary cap system, while the players favor the current one that allows teams to exceed it through use of certain exceptions. Players fear a harder cap system would eliminate fully guaranteed contracts for all but the top players.

And that may be the easier one.

Owners want a significant reduction in the players' guarantee of basketball-related income, which was 57 percent in the previous deal. Players proposed lowering it to 54.3 percent before the lockout began July 1, though Hunter indicated this summer they were prepared to go lower if owners would agree to leave the cap system untouched. Union officials have said the league's proposals would have them in the mid-40s.

Each percentage point equates to at least $30 million. Players totaled $2.1 billion in salaries and benefits players earned this season.

"We just haven't been able to get to a space, at least the formal proposals that have been on the table, get us to place where we can agree on a deal at this point," Fisher said. "And so economically, we've tried to kind of leave that one floating and deal with some system issues and see what we can carve out there, but we're working at it."

Hunter has said players have instructed union leadership that they would rather sit out than accept a bad deal. But Stern has warned that offers will only get worse once games are missed, which he seemed to be alluding to Wednesday when he said without progress in the upcoming talks "then it won't be a question of just starting the season on time, it will be a lot at risk because of the absence of progress."

The NBA later denied an ESPN.com report that he planned to threaten players with cancellation of the entire season without progress by the end of the weekend.

With the two huge items still to tackle and numerous smaller ones remaining untouched, it won't come easily—and there's a chance it doesn't come at all.

"There's not necessarily a win-lose scenario to get our season started on time," Fisher said. "We certainly have to be in a place where both sides feel that it's a fair deal to be sustained and we'll see if we can do that sooner rather than later."

Vegas, McGirt top Las Vegas leaderboard

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Jhonattan Vegas and William McGirt shot career-best 8-under 63s on Thursday to share the first-round lead in the Justin Timberlake Shriners Hospitals for Children Open.

Vegas, the Venezuelan rookie who won the Bob Hope Classic in January for his first PGA Tour title, had 10 birdies and two bogeys at TPC Summerlin in the first of four Fall Series events.

McGirt, also a PGA Tour rookie, had eight birdies in a bogey-free round.

Nathan Green and Charlie Wi were a stroke back.

Vegas, playing in hot afternoon conditions, birdied the par-4 15th and par-5 16th to reach 8 under, dropped a stroke on the par-3 17th and closed with a birdie on the par-4 18th to get back to 8 under.

"I feel like I'm hitting the ball absolutely great, which is something fun to do," Vegas said. "But the main thing was I made a lot of putts today.

"The two greens I missed today, I missed by probably half an inch. And just putting from the fringe I three-putted both times, which was kind of ironic. It's just golf. It is what it is. You have to stay positive, and the more positive you can be the better you'll be out there."

McGirt, playing in one of the last groups of the day, made seven birdies in a 10-hole stretch from Nos. 7 to 16, then parred the final two holes to match Vegas at 8 under.

"I really didn't set a number," McGirt said. "I was just trying to make as many birdies as I could. Thursday through Saturday, all you're doing is jockeying for position so that you can make a move on Sunday.

"I knew there was a 7 under posted (by Green) before I even teed off. So you knew it was out there, and it was just a matter of staying aggressive and making some putts."

Green, the leader until Vegas overtook him in the final hour, made seven birdies. The Australian won the 2009 Canadian Open for his lone PGA Tour title.

"Just no mistakes, which was nice," Green said. "No bogeys, which was pretty unusual. "I didn't hit it overly close. It was just one of those steady rounds where I just managed to pick up; there's probably three or four sort of unexpected birdies out there."

Nick Watney, a two-time winner this year, was two strokes back at 65 along with Harrison Frazar, Tim Herron, Vaughn Taylor, Steve Flesch, Matt Jones, Rod Pampling, Derek Lamely, Blake Adams, Garrett Willis and Alex Cejka. Frazar and Lamely eagled the 524-yard 16th hole.

Jonathan Byrd, the winner last year when he made a hole-in-one on the fourth hole of a playoff with Martin Laird and Cameron Percy, opened with a 71.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN OPEN SCORES

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Results Thursday from the Justin Timberlake Shriners Hospitals for Children Open played at the 7,243-yard, par-71 TPC Summerlin course.

FIRST ROUND

Jhonattan Vegas	31-32—63
William McGirt	32-31—63
Nathan Green	31-33—64
Charlie Wi	33-31—64
Steve Flesch	33-32—65
Matt Jones	34-31—65
Rod Pampling	31-34—65
Harrison Frazar	33-32—65
Nick Watney	32-33—65
Derek Lamely	32-33—65
Vaughn Taylor	31-34—65
Blake Adams	33-32—65
Garrett Willis	33-32—65
Tim Herron	32-33—65
Alex Cejka	34-31—65
Carl Pettersson	34-32—66
Arjun Atwal	33-33—66
Robert Garrigus	33-33—66
Kris Blanks	33-33—66
Cameron Tringale	33-33—66
Brendan Steele	34-32—66
Kevin Streelman	32-34—66
Bob Estes	33-33—66
Paul Goydos	34-32—66
David Duval	32-34—66
Billy Horschel	33-33—66
Will Strickler	33-33—66
John Merrick	34-33—67
Brian Gay	33-34—67
Ben Crane	34-33—67
Trevor Immelman	35-32—67
Boo Weekley	35-32—67
Alex Prugh	34-33—67
Billy Mayfair	36-31—67
Jeff Overton	35-32—67
Paul Stankowski	35-32—67
D.J. Brigman	34-33—67
Nate Smith	33-34—67
Bio Kim	35-32—67
Tommy Gainey	34-33—67
Tim Petrovic	35-32—67
Kevin Na	33-34—67
Rocco Mediate	33-34—67
Scott Piercy	34-33—67
Steve Elkington	35-32—67
Colt Knost	33-34—67
Steven Bowditch	35-32—67
Michael Thompson	35-33—68
Chris DiMarco	35-33—68
Joe Ogilvie	34-34—68
Kevin Stadler	32-36—68
Cameron Percy	34-34—68
Woody Austin	34-34—68
Bobby Gates	35-33—68
Ryuji Imada	36-32—68
Spencer Levin	35-33—68
Bryce Molder	34-34—68
Roland Thatcher	36-32—68
Briny Baird	34-34—68
Greg Chalmers	34-34—68
Aron Price	34-34—68
Fabian Gomez	33-35—68
Shane Bertsch	36-33—69
Tag Ridings	37-32—69
George McNeill	35-34—69
Ben Curtis	36-33—69
Tom Gillis	32-37—69
Kent Jones	34-35—69
Duffy Waldorf	35-34—69
Kyle Stanley	35-34—69
Kevin Chappell	34-35—69
Heath Slocum	34-35—69
Scott Stallings	35-34—69
Michael Bradley	37-32—69
John Mallinger	37-32—69
J.P. Hayes	37-32—69
David Hearn	38-31—69
Michael Sim	36-34—70
Martin Laird	34-36—70
Jason Bohn	37-33—70
Ricky Barnes	34-36—70
Troy Merritt	35-35—70
Shaun Micheel	36-34—70
Jarrod Lyle	35-35—70
Michael Connell	34-36—70
Richard S. Johnson	34-36—70
Bill Lunde	35-35—70
Scott Gutschewski	35-35—70
Alexandre Rocha	36-34—70
Kevin Kisner	34-36—70
Jim Herman	35-35—70
Joseph Bramlett	37-33—70
John Riegger	35-36—71
Scott McCarron	34-37—71
Jonathan Byrd	36-35—71
Charley Hoffman	33-38—71
Stephen Ames	36-35—71
Lee Janzen	35-36—71
David Mathis	34-37—71
Zack Miller	37-34—71
Daniel Summerhays	34-37—71
Preston Otte	36-35—71
Fran Quinn	36-35—71
Justin Hicks	34-37—71
Drew Kittleson	38-33—71
Chad Campbell	35-36—71
Chris Riley	35-36—71
James Driscoll	35-36—71
Hunter Haas	35-36—71
Nick O'Hern	34-37—71
Troy Matteson	34-37—71
Matt Bettencourt	36-35—71
Josh Teater	35-36—71
Joe Durant	36-36—72
D.J. Trahan	38-34—72
Ryan Moore	37-35—72
Cameron Beckman	39-33—72
Brendon de Jonge	36-36—72
Anthony Rodriguez	34-38—72
Scott Gordon	37-35—72
Chez Reavie	36-36—72
Andres Gonzales	36-36—72
Jeff Quinney	36-37—73
Tom Pernice, Jr.	34-39—73
Jim Renner	36-37—73
Ben Martin	36-37—73
Martin Piller	38-35—73
Marty Jertson	37-36—73
Jeff Maggert	39-35—74
Matt McQuillan	38-36—74
Carl Paulson	39-36—75
Chris Baryla	41-39—80

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SWEET

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made a brief rally to move within 10 at the break, 41-51.

Cabalen continued its uphill climb in the second half and even tied the count, 54-all. Cabalen also had several chances of stealing the upper hand in the third, but just couldn't drill the needed baskets and at the end of that canto, Proa still had the final say with Sablan firing his fifth triple of the night for a 67-63 cushion.

With Cabalen now back into the game, the momentum shifted into its side in the fourth and a triple from Lerio Pagarao from the top key finally gave the team its first taste of the lead, 73-71, 5:39 to go in the match.

However, Proa quickly regained the driver's seat on Gino Libuw's own triple, 74-73, and Iguel also connected on a triple to cap a 9-3 run and give his team more breathing room, 80-73, 4:30 remaining on the clock.

Then Cabalen answered with its own short tally, scoring six straight points to move within one, 79-80. Pagarao had a chance to grab the lead anew when he lost his defender, but he babied his drive and worse he was called for an offensive foul.

Cabalen had another blackeye when Banjo Basila was called for an unsportsmanlike foul on Pete Lizama, who cut to the middle but pushed off by the Basila. Lizama calmly sank the pair of charities, giving Proa an 82-79 lead, 1:10 to go in the match.

Teams traded misses in the ensuing plays and Cabalen lost its chances to send the game in overtime when Bon Tamayo missed on his two attempts from downtown. Tamayo was held to only six points and one triple. In their penultimate game, Tamayo scored 25 points and hit six triples.

Cabalen put up a gallant stand against the unbeaten Proa when the latter opted not to use its backcourt press in the second half. With Proa's defense loosening up, Cabalen managed to get baskets on its half court sets and nailed a couple of outside shots.

Seeing his team in trouble, Aguon, who was at the sidelines in the first three quarters letting assistant coach Joe Villacrusis give instructions to Proa players, decided to call the shots in the final canto and save the win.

Proa preserved the victory with its impressive 3-point shooting, as it exploded for 14 triples against Cabalen's only five. Besides losing in the 3-point shootout, Cabalen also muffed several charities, hurting its chances of ending Proa's winning run.

Iguel top-scored for Proa with 25 points, 18 of them came from downtown, while Sablan finished with 15. Pagarao led Cabalen with 21 markers.

Namfrel/Proa 82 – Iguel 25, Sablan 15, Lizama 13, Johnson 11, Chariton 4, Mendiola 3, Libuw 3, Babauta 2.

Cabalen/Noni 79 – Pagarao 21, Abuel 16, Bernardo 14, Basila 13, Tamayo 6, Demapan 4, Yabut 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-16, 51-41, 67-63, 82-79.

Gaiana-B treads lightly atop B-Flame Tree

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Current Thursday B-Flame Tree frontrunner Gaiana-B of Bar Gaia was stunned by runner-up Chagi Sang, 5-10, in this week's featured SEDA matchup held at D'Pirates Bar & Grill.

The loss chopped Gaiana-B's lead over its rival to two games.

Other division leaders include Tueday B-League's Sabalu Boys of D'Pirate's Bar & Grill, Master Division's IT&E Kamote's of Es'y Kitchen, C-Division's One Shot out of VFW Post 3457's, and B-Fanihi's Echoserong Kamote of Naked Fish Bar & Grill.

Gaiana-B took one on the chin this week, but still holds the best record in B-Flame Tree at 64-41.

In other B Flame Tree results, Joe's Bar & Grill's One Shot (56-49) posted a 10-5 on the road against sister-team Skorgazzzums (43-62); D'Pirate's Lucky Shot (53-52) upset Naked Fish's Na'Gupu (53-52), 8-7, at home; and D'Pirate's Sabalu (58-47) slid into third place thanks to an 8-0 forfeit by caboose team Why Not (24-81), out of Oleai.

Chagi Sang's Jun Manaloto scored a 138 High In and Skorgazzums' Joel Tudela a 112 High Out in their respective matches.

On Tuesday, Sabalu Boys schooled sister-team Delubyo (62-43), 11-4, in a home match to improve its win-loss record to 84-21. Sabalu Boys have amassed a daunting 19-game lead over the 10-team B-league field.

Es'y's/Kamote's Shawarma Boys and D'Pirates' Mixed Bloodshooters 2 are tied for second place with identical records of 65-40.

Shawarma Boys dropped Dosukebe Boys (45-60), 9-6, in a road match at Jonny's, while Mixed-Blood 2 routed Team Ombre Za (44-61), 14-1, at Oleai.

In other results, Oleai's Strike Force (47-58) brushed off sister-team K-1 Snickers (22-83), 11-4, in a home draw; and Oleai's GCC Carpeters (59-46) bested VFW's Assashunz (32-73), 12-3, on the road.

Ombre Za's Ray Anthony Aguon posted a 160 High and Dosukebe's Kento Togawa scored a 113 High Out in their respective matches.

On Wednesday, IT&E Kamote's routed Jonny's Azcals (39-80), 13-4, on the road to increase its lead in the Master's Division to three games at 73-46.

Its sister-team, SOS Jokers, edged out third-ranked D'Pirates' Destroyers (65-54), 8-7, at home to retain the runner-up spot; and Oleai's Snipers (56-63) snuck past sister-team D'Companeros (54-65), 9-8, in a road draw.

Destroyers' Sadiri Martin and D'Companeros' Julius Monton posted 160 High Ins and SOS Jokers' Jeff Barit marked a 155 High Out in their respective matches.

Also on Wednesday, One Shot defeated Joe's I Like It (41-64), 11-4, at home to maintain a six-game lead in the C-Division. One Shot improved its card to 74-31.

Second-ranked Anie's Imuza downed Bar Gaia's Gaiana-C (32-73), 11-4, at home in Sand's Bar to keep pace with the front runner.

D'Pirates' Yosketeh Boys (67-38) gained some ground in third place with a 12-3 victory over Jonny's Night Hawks (43-62).

In other results, the Oleai Sparks (56-49) was upset on the road by Naked Fish Bar & Grill's Oh! MG (55-50), 7-8; and D'Pirates' Lucky Shot (51-54) trampled Gaia's World-C (38-67), 12-3, in an away match.

Yotsketeh's Gil Gapor scored a 152 High In and Buddy Garote a 138 High Out.

In B-Fanhi play from Thursday, Echoserong outlasted third-ranked Es'y's SOS Akiramenai (61-44), 8-7, at home to improve its lead atop the division to seven games with an overall card of 69-36.

Gaia's World-B (62-43) suffered a 6-9 road upset to Jonny's Sekid (40-65); VFW's Dutty Gunz (59-46) gained some ground in the standings with a 10-5 road win over Es'y's Kitchen Shooters (43-62); and Oleai's No Fear (53-52) weathered sister-team Oh Yeah! (33-72), 8-7, in a home draw.

SOS' Manny Blas shot a 160 High In and Dutty Gunz's Norman Camacho posted a 129 High Out.

MDX

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24 markers.

The battle for the second and last finals berth ended in a deadlock after the first period, 15-all. Then MDX started gaining control of the match in the second canto behind the duo of Jinang and Montano, who combined for 14 points to lift their team to an eight-point lead at the break, 38-30.

In the second half, MDX drew contributions from other players, while VisMinda's offense became unpredictable with Lizama almost always powering his way into the basket. He was successful most of the time, but still lacked support from his teammates. Junior Renguul finished 16 points, but had limited touches in the fourth, scoring only two markers. Abedes also tallied double figures with his 11 markers, but it was a far cry from his 24-point output in their playoff win over MAFEA/RNV last week and he was held to only a field goal in the final canto.

MDX/Armatech 76 – Montano 17, Banatasa 12, Tobias 10, Jinang 9, Trajano 7, Abuy 6, A. Crisostomo 5, Malasarte 4, Berline 4, P. Crisostomo 2.

VisMinda/PIAHI 68 – Lizama 24, Renguul 16, Abedes 11, Palacios 10, Ruluked 4, Gabaldon 1.

Scoring by quarters: 15-15, 38-30, 53-43, 76-68.

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In 2011, a Red Sox collapse for a new generation

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Sports

With eye on clock, NBA owners, players seek deal

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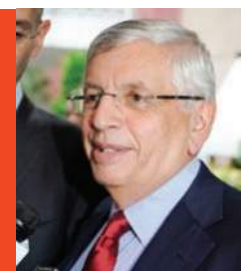

Sweet sweep for Proa

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Namfrel/Proa's Pete Iguel drives against Cabalen/Noni's Wowie Abuel, left, during the third quarter of their game in the UFO Bud Cup on Thursday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After an easy win in their seventh game, Namfrel/Proa coach Rufino Aguon said their eighth and last one will be tough.

He was right, as Proa needed to withstand Cabalen/Noni' second-half rally to eke out an 82-79 victory in the UFO Inter-Organization Basketball Friendship League 2011 Bud Cup on Thursday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

The triumph gave Proa a sweep of the regular season, the pennant, and an outright semis slot in the nine-team field. Cabalen failed to grab the automatic semis ticket as it finished the elimination round with a 6-2 record for third place, losing the tiebreaker for second with UPAA/Docomo Hoopaholics. Cabalen, UPAA, Bayani, MAFEA, VisMinda, and Cavite will also play in the first round of the playoffs with the Top 3 teams joining Proa in the semifinals.

Proa boosted its chances for the semis berth after controlling the first half of the last game in the regular season. Aguon's wards put out their trademark back court press, forcing Noni out of its offensive rhythm.

Proa took a 25-16 advantage after the first period and led by as much as 16 in the second canto, 38-22. Josh Sablan came off the bench and hit four treys to pad Proa's lead before Cabalen

See SWEET on Page 27

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MDX/Armatech's Toto Banatasa, left, is hacked by VisMinda/PIA-HI's Jack Palacios during the fourth quarter of their semis game in the UFO Masters Docomo Cup on Thursday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

MDX/Armatech enters finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MDX/Armatech clinched the second finals seat in the UFO Inter-Organization Masters Basketball Docomo Pacific Cup 2011 after thwarting VisMinda/PIA-HI in their semis match, 76-68, on Thursday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

MDX will collide with defending champion Cabalen/Wings Travel for the masters crown next week.

VisMinda/PIAHI faltered on its bid to advance into the finals after falling behind by as much as 18 points in the fourth quarter and failing to complete a rally in the payoff period.

The two semifinalists had a close fight in the first half before MDX took a double-digit lead after the third period, 53-43. In the fourth quarter, MDX had an 8-0 start to stretch the advantage to 18, 61-43.

Ray Lizama then almost single-handedly tried to bring VisMinda back into the game, but each time he converted baskets, MDX found ways to answer and keep its distance. Ferdie Tobias canned most of those rally halting field goals, as he came off the bench in the fourth and drilled eight of his 10 points in that canto.

VisMinda made one final push to steal the game from MDX when it sliced the lead to seven off Lizama's getaway layup, 68-75, with 1:03 left on the clock.

When MDX regained possession, VisMinda gave up three quick fouls to stop the clock, which read at 48.3 seconds. After VisMinda was called for its fourth team foul, it could not decide right away if it will give up one more. When it did, about 20 seconds on the clock were already gone by.

VisMinda's fifth foul sent Ariel Jinang to the foul line and he missed both shots. However, he hustled for the loose ball after the long rebound and drew another foul, with 7.6 left on the clock. Jinang split his charities to put icing on the cake and move MDX to the finals.

Bernard Montano paced MDX with 17 points, while Toto Banatasa chipped in 12. Lizama led VisMinda with

See MDX on Page 27

Tan Holdings wins fall debut

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tan Holdings FC prevailed in the last game in the boys U15 division of the 2011 NMIFA Youth Football Fall League that kicked off last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Tan Holdings shut out Paire, 3-0, to join opening week winners MP United 1 and 2, which dominated Shirley's FC 1, 17-1, and Matansa FC, 11-1, respectively.

Marc Gerald Mora broke the ice for Tan Holdings when he scored the first goal for his team. Dan Deric Ibarra made it a 2-0 count at the break, as he also found the back of the net in the first 45 minutes of play.

Then in the second half, Jack Unsa lit up the scoreboard to complete Tan Holding's first win of the season.

Over at the San Antonio Elementary School Field, defending champion Matansa and MP United downed separate foes in the girls U15 division.

In the first match at the Octopus' pitch, Matansa clobbered Tan Holdings, 10-0.

Jace Pineda led Matansa's big win, scoring four goals, while Andrea Camacho, and Mary Ann Waing added two each. Maile Aldrich and Almina Deleon Guerrero chipped in one goal apiece.

In the second girls U15 match, MP United beat Paire FC, 4-1.

Hae Rim Kim and Amy Taylor made two goals each for MP United, while Kayleen Salle logged Paire's lone goal.

Back at the Oleai pitch, Paire FC stunned defending champion MP United, 3-2.

Paire scored all its goals in the second half to recover from a 0-2 deficit at halftime. Devin Atalig, Hae Sung Lee, and Zhi Lin nailed one goal apiece for Paire, while Yi Shan Wang recorded twin goals for MP United.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Tan Holdings FC U15 team are seen here in a file photo during the spring season of the NMIFA youth league. Tan Holdings opened the fall season last week with a 3-0 win over Paire.